

JPRS 83562

27 May 1983

Latin America Report

No. 2683



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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27 May 1983

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2683

CONTENTS

ENERGY ECONOMICS

BARBADOS

Minister Cites Benefits From Government Purchase of Mobil Unit (Roy Morris; SUNDAY SUN, 17 Apr 83).....	1
Adams Promises Measures To Bar Excess Profits by Mobil (ADVOCATE-NEWS, 20 Apr 83).....	2
Discussion Centers on Power Company's Sources of Fuel (THE NATION, 18 Apr 83).....	3
IDB Has Invested \$1.5 Million in Wind Energy Pilot Project (THE NATION, 21 Apr 83).....	4

ECUADOR

Briefs	
New Oil Strike	5
New Oil Well	5
Oil Sales to Brazil	5

JAMAICA

Loan Accord Signed With Bonn for Hydropower Plants (THE DAILY GLEANER, 23 Apr 83).....	6
---	---

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Report Examines Ramifications of Texaco Shutdown (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 21 Apr 83).....	7
---	---

New Gas Turbines, Enhancement Projects Planned by TTEC (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, various dates).....	8
---	---

Turbine Specifications
Rationale for Turbines
Plans To End Blackouts

COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

St Vincent Paper Continues To Focus on Grenada Issue (THE VINCENTIAN, various dates, ADVOCATE-NEWS, 14 Apr 83).....	11
---	----

Liberation Group's Review
Grenadian Refugee's Story
Charge of CARICOM Indifference
Liberation Group on Oppression, by Dyrick Charles
Reader's Complaint

Trinidad, Jamaica, Others Discuss Trade Compromise Steps (THE DAILY GLEANER, 23, 27 Apr 83, TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 23 Apr 83).....	19
--	----

View in Kingston
Trinidad Assessment
Stalemate at Follow-up Meeting

Jamaican, Barbadian Officials Address Industry Ministries (THE DAILY GLEANER, 23 Apr 83).....	23
--	----

Twelve-Member CAIC Executive Committee Named for Coming Year (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 26 Apr 83).....	26
---	----

Briefs Caribbean Banana Output	27
-----------------------------------	----

BARBADOS

Hungarian Envoy on 6-Day Visit To Meet Government Officials (SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS, 17 Apr 83).....	28
---	----

Sugar Price Support Plan Studied; Local Prices Increase (ADVOCATE-NEWS, 16, 19 Apr 83).....	29
--	----

Government Plans
Price Hikes, by Irvine Reid

Inflation Rate for Year Ending Feb '83 Down to 6.8 Percent (ADVOCATE-NEWS, 15 Apr 83).....	31
Tourism Registers Decline for First 2 Months of 1983 (ADVOCATE-NEWS, 16 Apr 83).....	32
Briefs	
World Bank Loan	33
Figures on Jobless	33
BELIZE	
Paper Notes Call for Central America Talks, Hits Communism (Editorial; THE REPORTER, 17 Apr 83).....	34
Prime Minister in Talks on Sugar Pricing, Industry Losses (BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES, 17 Apr 83).....	35
Briefs	
Report on Cooperatives	37
Equipment for Defense	37
DOMINICA	
UK Offers \$20-Million Loan To Help Banana Industry (ADVOCATE-NEWS, 16 Apr 83).....	38
Charles Comments on Aid for Country's Rehabilitation (SUNDAY SUN, 17 Apr 83).....	39
ECUADOR	
Visiting UK Official Discusses Bilateral Relations (LATIN, 26 Apr 83).....	40
Visiting UK Official on Relations With Area (EFE, 26 Apr 83).....	41
Heads of State Respond to Hurtado Proposal (Voz de los Andes, 17 Apr 83).....	42
Honduran Consul Issues Statement on Embassy Takeover (Ecuador Radio, 26 Apr 83).....	43
President Approves Amendments to Electoral Law (Voz de los Andes, 21 Apr 83).....	45
Briefs	
Demonstrators Support Ruminahui Front	46
Foreign Debt Negotiations	46
Nicaraguan Minister on Libyan Arms	46

GRENADA

Deplorable Prison Conditions Hit in Letter to 'GUARDIAN' (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 18 Apr 83).....	47
---	----

Briefs

Overseas Tourism Offices	48
Aid From Canada	48

GUYANA

Human Rights Association Urges Eased Food Import Restrictions (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 25 Apr 83).....	49
Text of Burnham Interview With 'CANA' Correspondent (ADVOCATE-NEWS, 18 Apr 83).....	51

JAMAICA

Police Officers First of Government Employees To OK Pay Plan (THE DAILY GLEANER, 27 Apr 83).....	54
Labor Scene Remains in Turmoil as Civil Servants Return (THE DAILY GLEANER, 22, 23 Apr 83).....	55
Work-to-Rule Actions City Clerks' Strike	
Budget of \$6.9 Million for Agricultural Incentives (THE DAILY GLEANER, 22 Apr 83).....	58
Shell Earmarks Funds for Social Projects To Improve Image (THE DAILY GLEANER, 25 Apr 83).....	61
Development of Rural Business Goal of JNIP Programs (THE DAILY GLEANER, 25 Apr 83).....	63
Briefs	
Record Cocoa Production	64

MEXICO

ERRATUM: Upcoming Municipal Elections Pose Problems for PRI (LA VOZ DEL SURESTE, 18 Feb 83, EXCELSIOR, 22, 27 Feb 83).....	65
PRI Fortification Campaign Oaxaca Among Weak Points, by Guillermo Canton Zetina PRI Practices Criticized, by Humberto Aranda	

ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

Waterfront Workers, Represented by WAGWU, Win Accord (THE DEMOCRAT, 9 Apr 83).....	69
---	----

ST LUCIA

Budget Proposal: Curb Public Service Salaries, Imports (THE WEEKEND VOICE, 16 Apr 83).....	71
---	----

Objections to Wage Demands
Call for Imports Restraint
Editorial Comment, Editorial

Briefs

Labour Party Reunification	74
Farmers Co-op Technical Evaluation	74

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

National Development Plan Centers on Housing, Rural Programs (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 23 Apr 83).....	75
--	----

Central Bank Official Warns of Credit Control Violations (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 16 Apr 83).....	76
---	----

Registration for Local Government Elections Under Way (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 16, 22 Apr 83, SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 24 Apr 83).....	78
---	----

President's Proclamation
Public Response
City Council Discussions

Worker Retrenchment Issue in Spotlight, Led by OWTU (SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 17 Apr 83, TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, various dates).....	80
---	----

Terms of Texaco Retirement Plan, by Mikey Mahabir
Union Vow on Cuts, by Mikey Mahabir
Texaco Restructuring
PPM on Layoffs
OWTU on Texaco Plan
Cabinet Discussion
Caroni Action
Local Government Layoffs, by Clevon Raphael
Attack on Government's Role

PRC Delegation Tours Point Lisas Industrial Estate (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 25 Apr 83).....	92
Chambers at PNM Rally: Not Yet Ready To Discuss Some Issues (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 19 Apr 83).....	93
Investment in Public Companies Said To Benefit Only a Few (George Harvey; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 22 Apr 83).....	94
Briefs	
Tobago Issue	95
Airport Scam	95
Alliance on 'Integrity' Legislation	95
Bank-Union Accord	96
Teachers' Actions	96

MINISTER CITES BENEFITS FROM GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF MOBIL UNIT

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 17 Apr 83 p 2

[Article by Roy Morris]

[Text]

LOCAL oil exploration and drilling operations bought by the Government from Mobil Oil for Bds \$24 million last year is now worth in the region of Bds \$38 million.

This was stated yesterday by Minister of Energy, Senator Clyde Griffith, while responding to opposition questioning of the decision to take over ownership of local operations.

Senator Griffith said:

"Let us look at some of the benefits of the take over. Barbados has been subjected to drilling explorations for over 100 years. We have not in that period of time been able to identify a cadre of Barbadians who we can safely say are experts and experienced in this field.

"Under the Government's energy policy, provision is made for Barbadians to be trained. Indeed, since the oil field has been taken over by the Government, and with the assistance of Petro Canada, we have had four Barbadians sent

up to Canada for training, at different periods."

Senator Griffith told the SUN in an exclusive interview that these Barbadians would eventually take over the operations of our oil fields.

The energy minister further stated that since the October 1982 take over, there had been a 50 percent increase in natural gas production and also since that time, oil production increased by an average of over 300 barrels daily.

Based on current oil prices, the minister added, this means that the increase production of crude has saved the country over \$3 million in oil imports.

"And," he continued, "accounting is currently being done of the improvement of the oil field, as far as evaluation is concerned, and it shows that the oil field is now worth in the vicinity of Bds \$38 million. It was bought for Bds \$24 million.

"These are positive facts that no opposition member can deny.

Griffith added that another positive result of the sale is that Barbados acquired, free of cost, over \$15 million in seismic data, "which we did not have the funding to do".

ADAMS PROMISES MEASURES TO BAR EXCESS PROFITS BY MOBIL

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 20 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

Government has taken steps to ensure that the local Mobil refinery does not make excess profits at the expense of the country based on current pricing mechanism for petroleum products from the refinery and in wake of recent cuts in the prices of crude.

Prime Minister Tom Adams who made the announcement in Parliament yesterday, said that the measures adopted will be made known shortly. Mr. Adams was reacting to a query from Opposition Leader Errol Barrow.

Mr. Barrow had enquired in a Parliamentary question whether Mr. Adams was aware that Mobil was earning an excess profit of 35 cents per gallon on refined products since the fall in world prices of crude.

He suggested that if the answer was in the affirmative, Mr. Adams should take steps

to ensure that the profit was passed on to motorists and other users of gasoline and diesel products.

According to the Prime Minister; "Given the pricing mechanism for petroleum products from the local refinery therefore, it is clear that the recent announced reduction in the price of crude would only result in generating excess profit to the refinery when cargo lots were received at the reduced price."

He said that the first shipment of feedstock at the lower price was received at the refinery on April 9 this year. and that:

"Measures which will be announced shortly, are already in train to ensure that Mobil Oil Barbados Limited does not benefit from this situation at the expense of the country."

Mr. Adams had earlier given a background to a franchise granted to Mobil in 1963 to supply Barbados' needs.

He pointed out that in granting any exclusive franchise, it was necessary to ensure against potential abuse of monopoly position.

Mr. Adams also referred to a 1974 surcharge element which was introduced into the ex-refinery product. Initially, Mr. Adams pointed out the surcharge of \$10 was imposed on gasoline and diesel.

He stated it was used effectively to regulate the profitability of the refinery and had been changed over time in response to increase in the cost of refinery feedstock to ensure a reasonable return to the refinery.

He added it was used alternatively to restrict refinery profits when the prices of products are high relative to its feedstock costs.

DISCUSSION CENTERS ON POWER COMPANY'S SOURCES OF FUEL

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 18 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

MINISTER of Energy, Senator Clyde Griffith agrees with Opposition financial spokesman, Dr Richie Haynes that it would be cheaper for the Barbados Light and Power Company if it imported its own fuel.

However, Senator Griffith made it clear that it was an agreement signed by the then Democratic Labour Party (DLP) government in 1962 which deterred the Light and Power Company from doing this.

Dr. Haynes said last week that because of mismanagement of the energy sector, the BL&P was now being made to buy fuel at \$6 million more a year than it would if the fuel was imported directly and piped into the

storage system has in Barbados.

After pointing out that he did not want to get involved in any statements about the power company because of a pending decision after the recent rate hearing, Griffith said: "If we go back to the Mobil Refinery agreement which was signed in October 1962 by the Government and the British Oil Company which operated the refinery at the time, we will find that (1) this agreement is a 25-year agreement expiring in 1987 and (2) provision was made in the agreement for the refinery to make a profit."

He quoted Article five of this agreement which said that it was in the mutual interest of the Government and the company that an incentive be provided to the company for the continued development of the operation.

He said that this incentive required that all marketing companies (ESSO, Shell, Texaco etc) were to pay six cents on every gallon of product they imported in competition with the refinery. This six cents was supposed to be a disincentive to these companies, he added.

Griffith continued: "So when Dr. Haynes can state that we have to buy fuel at \$6 million more a year than if the fuel was imported directly and piped into the storage system, it shows that either he does not know what he is saying and does not understand the refinery agreement, or he is criticising an agreement which was made by the then governing party of which he is a member."

The energy minister said that the same agreement spelt out that the price of fuel from the local refinery would be the average of the prices of all the refineries in the region and added:

"This is the pricing system which was used and this was all spelt out in the refinery agreement. So it is not proper to say that it is the fault of this Government that the price structure is what it is today."

He said that fuel for the power company accounted for over 50 percent of the component imported by the refinery and if the company imported direct, it would cause the refinery to close.

IDB HAS INVESTED \$1.5 MILLION IN WIND ENERGY PILOT PROJECT

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 21 Apr 83 p 24

[Text]

THE Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), has invested \$1.5 million in a pilot project in Barbados to determine the possibility of utilising wind energy on a large scale to provide electricity.

IDB representative, David Coore, said if the data collected and experience gained from this pilot project indicate both physical and economic feasibility, then it could be the start of a number of major projects utilising wind energy, not only in Barbados, but in a number of other Caribbean islands that have similar wind and climatic conditions.

Coore told businessmen yesterday that the project had very exciting possibilities.

And he added that the IDB was "extremely happy" to have the opportunity of working with the Barbados Government and the Barbados Light and Power Company on the project.

"Here in Barbados," Coore continued, "we have also financed a seismic survey, designed to enhance the country's knowledge of the likely extent and probable location of its petroleum reserves."

While the results are still being evaluated, there was no doubt, Coore said, that this survey would be of immense benefit to the country in enabling the Government to develop projects and obtain the financing for further oil exploration and production.

This, the IDB representative assured, was certainly also an area in which the IDB remained ready, willing and able to provide the necessary technical and financial resources.

He pointed out that they were currently assisting the Government of Jamaica in its oil and gas exploration programme with a loan, at concessional rates of US\$23.5 million.

Coore also referred to the development of the fishing potential of IDB member countries, which had been of urgent concern to the bank.

He said that so far, they had not been able to do a great deal in the CARICOM region. But he hinted that the bank was currently examining a major project in this field with the Government of Barbados which, it was hoped, would get started either later this year, or early next year.

BRIEFS

NEW OIL STRIKE--Quito, 22 Apr (OPECNA)--Following the drilling of an exploratory well in northeastern Ecuador, experts feel that proven reserves in the field may total 300 million barrels. The new well, "Guarumo 1," drilled to a depth of 10,491 feet, was described by the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Enterprise, CEPE, as "an important find." It will be connected to the existing Secoya, Shuara, Shushuqui, Pacayacu Guarumo fields thus making up a huge field that will be called "Liberator Field." Seismic studies conducted in the region during 1979-80 resulted in the discovery of several geological structures containing oil reserves. CEPE said that "Guarumo 1" has disproved the general view that the chances of finding substantial reserves at the Cretaceous level were remote. According to CEPE Production Manager Mauro Davalos Cordero, the new discovery resulted from advanced seismic techniques. He said that the Texaco-Gulf consortium unsuccessfully explored the region in the early 1970's and then the concession reverted to the Ecuadorean Government. [Text] [PA222120 Vienna OPECNA in Spanish 1338 GMT 22 Apr 83]

NEW OIL WELL--Mauro Davalos, assistant production and exploration manager at the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation, has reported the existence of more than 200 million barrels in new oil reserves following the initiation of the Pichincha well in northeastern Ecuador. Located 60 km northeast of Lake Agrio, the new well produces 10,688 barrels of oil per day. [PA021558 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 30 Apr 83 PA]

OIL SALES TO BRAZIL--According to Gustavo Galindo, minister of natural resources and energy, the sale of crude oil to Brazil, which processes Ecuadorean oil, has been delayed because no agreement has been reached on prices. According to the minister, another problem is the trade balance, which is unfavorable to Brazil. Brazil, therefore, expects Ecuador to increase its purchases and contracts so that an agreement can be reached. A similar situation exists with China, with which oil negotiations are currently underway. [Text] [PA221759 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Apr 83]

CSO: 3348/371

LOAN ACCORD SIGNED WITH BONN FOR HYDROPOWER PLANTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Apr 83 p 5

[Text]

BONN, March 24 (JIS): Jamaica's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Glaister G. Duncan, will, later this month sign a 15-million Deutschmark loan and project agreement with the Ministry of Economic Co-operation here for construction of the first two of six small hydropower plants in the island.

The first two plants will be constructed at Constant Spring, St. Andrew, and Rio Bueno, Trelawny.

Mr. Duncan will also sign a financing agreement for 910,000 Deutschmark to provide consulting services for the preparation of phase two of the hydropower programme.

There is a loan agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and Jamaica for 41 million Deutschmark for the hydropower programme which is part of the Jamaica Government's energy development plan.

In an interview today, Dr. Karl Heinz Lehmann, head of the Ministry's North America, South America, Central America and Caribbean Region, said that the Government is also lending Jamaica 10 million Deutschmark (U. S. \$4-

million) as part of the total development aid to finance commodity purchases and equipment especially in the field of Agriculture.

Dr. Lehmann said that his Government attached considerable importance to the hydropower plants programme because an adequate power supply was vital to Jamaica's economic development.

Under the terms of the agreement both loans will carry an interest rate of 4.5 per cent per annum and is repayable over 20 years with a 5 year grace period.

In outlining his country's policy of providing financial and technical assistance to Third World countries such as Jamaica, Dr. Lehmann stressed that it was essential that the money be transformed by the recipient countries into productivity to the standards of living of the peoples.

Supporting this view in a separate interview, Ambassador Duncan said that the Federal Republic of Germany is, perhaps, the best example of a country which made maximum use of foreign assistance.

"Through the high level of productivity by

its people, the Federal Republic of Germany was transformed within the span of 38 years from an almost totally wrecked country at the end of the Second World War to an economic giant of the West with its people enjoying one of the highest standards of living in the world", Mr. Duncan said.

The country's economy has been reconstructed to the extent that last year according to figures released by the Ministry of Economic Co-operation, its assistance to Third World countries in the form of loans totalled 3.4 billion Deutschmark and 0.5 billion DM in technical assistance.

Caribbean diplomats in Bonn are optimistic that the level of financial and technical assistance to the region will be increased under the new Government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

While in opposition, Kohl's Christian Democratic Union/Christian Socialist Union pressed for a comprehensive programme of economic assistance to Central America and the Caribbean.

REPORT EXAMINES RAMIFICATIONS OF TEXACO SHUTDOWN

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

A TOTAL shutdown of operations by Texaco Trinidad Incorporated will bring about sudden and serious dislocations in the economy. This warning has been sounded in the position paper of the private sector prepared by the Employers' Consultative Association (ECA), for the ongoing tripartite discussions involving Government, labour and business.

The paper contend that Government revenue from the oil industry could fall drastically in 1983, to an extent which would require use of remaining cash reserves and additional foreign borrowings to meet the total recurrent and capital expenditure approved in the 1983 Budget.

"Government spending dominates the economy and supports directly and indirectly, the high level of sales and profits in most local business activities.

"The recession has been led by the fall in oil revenues but has been masked to some extent by Government's use of cash reserves and foreign exchanges.

"As oil revenue falls, the effects of the recession will become more obvious. There are other recessionary factors but failing Government revenue from oil will have the greatest impact.

Texaco is a major employer and a major purchaser of local goods and services — a Texaco shutdown will bring about sudden and serious dislocations in the economy.

The document adds: "The position now is that Texaco is refining oil provided by Trintoc/Texaco and both Texaco and Trintoc are incurring substantial losses having to operate at uneconomic levels.

ADVERSE EFFECT

"No matter what decision the Government takes, it would involve few funds being available to it, either because of lower taxation at the low end of Government investment in the oil industry at the higher end of the scale.

"The Government's decision will, therefore, have some adverse effect

on the financial position as shown in the '83 Budget."

Dealing with possible future effects, the ECA paper argues it is a real possibility that over a short period of years, the price of gasoline could be increased by as much as 160 per cent. Increases in the prices of other subsidised petroleum products can also be expected.

"The south land is likely to be depressed for a long time.

"Wage levels and salaries/benefits are not likely to increase as in previous years and a higher degree of mechanisation/automation is a distinct possibility.

"In addition to attempts to sustain economic activity in the south-land, the Government has to seek other forms of increasing revenue, particularly foreign exchange revenue.

"New industries, which are heavy users of natural gas and which have export earnings, will be particularly welcome."

New industries too, which add value or transform local materials/resources will have to be given added incentives of increased Government attention," the paper states.

NEW GAS TURBINES, ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS PLANNED BY TTEC

Turbine Specifications

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Apr 83 p 16

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) will have the use of two additional generating units at the Port-of-Spain Power Station by the end of 1984.

The two gas turbine units are being installed under contract with Rolls Royce International of the United Kingdom, a project which is costing \$30M.

Each of the units is of 25 megawatt capacity. When completed, the new plant will increase the installed generating output at the station

from 260 megawatts to 310 megawatts and will also provide black start capabilities in the event of a total shutdown of the station.

The units will allow the Port of Spain power station to be more independent of both the Point Lisas and Penal power stations on which it has to depend in the event of a breakdown.

A ceremony to mark the start of work on the installation of the generators will be held tomorrow. Officiating will be Minister of Public Utilities and National Transportation Senator John Eckstein.

Rationale for Turbines

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

GAS turbines will be introduced at the Port-of-Spain "B" power station of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) for the first time since it began functioning.

This statement was made by Dr. Ken Julien, TTEC board chairman on Saturday at the official ceremony marking the start of work on the installation of two 25mw black start generating units at the power station.

Dr. Julien said that the history of TTEC had previously revolved around steam turbines and after many years of consideration it was decided to move into gas.

He said it was for this reason that there are two gas turbines.

Dr. Julien told the gathering that the present construction at the power station was the first major construction to take place there in ten years.

He said the last unit — number 10 unit — was commissioned ten years ago.

Prof. Julien also explained the importance of the two units having black start capabilities as this meant that in the case of the shutdown of the other units, these two will be able to start up the larger units in a matter of minutes.

Dr. Julien added that it was also the first time that the commission was buying a plant from Rolls Royce.

The completion date for the project is September 1984.

Earlier, in his opening address, the acting general manager of TTEC, Mr. John Woon Sam, explained that the area being cleared for the construction of the two 25mw generating units was the site of the old "A" power station.

He said that the particular site had "run through the gamut of electricity" as the station had at various points in its history utilised diesel, low pressure turbines and high pressure turbines.

Mr. Woon Sam also noted that the Port-of-Spain power station has long been subject to controversy.

He said, however, that "we at this station have the capability to keep things going as long as the will is there."

Plans To End Blackouts

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

THERE is a critical balance between generating capacity available and the demand for electricity in Trinidad's northwestern peninsula and environs, extending as far east as St. Augustine.

In the opinion of Public Utilities Minister Senator John Eckstein, "this is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs."

The solution, he told a sowing ceremony at the weekend, was speedy implementation of four projects:

- Building a new 132 KV sub station at Bamboo Settlement.
- Construction four 132 KV lines from Point Lisas to the new sub-station at Bamboo.
- Upgrading the switch gear at the Barataria sub-station.
- Installing two 132 KV to 66 KV transformers at Bamboo Settlement sub-station.

Speaking at the sod turning ceremony for the installation of two "Black Start" gas turbines at the Port-of-Spain power station, the Minister referred to what he himself called the "critical balance."

He noted the situation was such that in order to maintain voltage and frequency levels to customers within statutory limits at their point of supply, it was necessary to keep three of the four units at the power station continuously in operation.

Senator Eckstein said this was most unsatisfactory since there should be sufficient spare generating capacity on the system to allow not only for one unit being down for planned maintenance, but also for any other unit shutdown at short notice for unplanned maintenance.

In such a situation there ought to be adequate generating capacity to meet the demands of consumers.

AGE OF UNITS

Unfortunately, he said, this was not the case. Given the age of the units at the Port-of-Spain station

and the nature of the work required, there was bound to be occasions when problems would arise. The obvious result was consequential load shedding, disruption to customers, and angry newspaper editorials.

Referring to the four projects, the Minister said the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) awarded a \$6.2m contract to the British firm, Regrolite Limited, to build the new 132 KV sub-station at Bamboo. The project was 30 per cent complete and would be ready by March, 1984.

A U.S. firm - Richards and Associates - was awarded a \$14 million contract to construct two of the four 132 KV lines from Point Lisas to Bamboo.

This project was 10 per cent complete, and was expected to be fully completed in December.

A contract for the remaining two lines went to the British firm - Hawker Siddley - at a cost of \$14.5 million.

To date, reported the Minister, the route surveys of the lines in this contract have been completed. The rest of the work was programmed to end by June, 1984.

A contract for the upgrading of the switch gear at Barataria went to General Electric. Completion date is March next year.

In the meantime, TTEC placed orders for the two 132 KV to 66 KV transformers to be installed at Bamboo to maintain the 66 KV system into Port-of-Spain and to the

far east areas. The cost was \$2 million, and when the sub-station was completed, both transformers would be commissioned and integrated into the system.

RAISE THE LEVEL

Senator Eckstein said the four projects were expected to be operational June, 1984. Then the power generated at Point Lisas would be available in sufficient quantity to the northwestern peninsula and environs.

Speaking about the two 25-megawatt "Black Start" generating units at the Port-of-Spain power station, Senator Eckstein said that when installed, these units would

provide additional generating capacity. They would also have quick-start capacity which none of the generating units in Port-of-Spain possessed.

The end result would be to raise the level of reliability in the supply of electricity.

Installation of the two Black Start units, the Minister said, was absolutely necessary given the critical nature of the activities, both commercial and industrial — not forgetting too that the daily newspapers had their printing plants in the area — for which the supply of electricity was so essential.

He said it was necessary for TTEC, the National Gas Company and the two Government Ministries involved to institute measures to ensure a reliable and consistent supply of gas of the highest quality to the Port-of-Spain station.

CSO: 3298/556

ST VINCENT PAPER CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON GRENADA ISSUE

Liberation Group's Review

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 18, 31 Mar 83

[18 Mar 83 p 8]

[Text]

Part I.**By Grenada National Mass
Movement Liberation,
Historical Clarity**

According to dissident Grenadian sources, the current leadership of their nation has tried to conceal the facts about the history of the Jewel Movement. Contrary to the official propaganda, the sources said, Jewel Movement is the name originally given to the organization, which was formed by several grassroots activists from Saint Davids.

Following the 1972 General Elections, Teddy Victor, Sebastian Thomas, Unison Whiteman, Whittico Jeremiah, Moses Joseph, Irving Lett, and Sherwin Lazarus came together to form a new organization. During the campaign, they discovered in the Grenadian Society a high rate of illiteracy, electoral frauds, empty promises made to exploit the honesty and weaknesses of the poor.

As a result they decided to chart a new course in the political life of Grenada. Their concern, then, was not in power politics but in raising consciousness. Initially it was oriented

towards community efforts to build agricultural cooperative. The success of that venture and the mobilization of many of the young unemployed villagers led to other activities. At meetings the people were able to discuss the political problems of the society. The success of the Saint David's experience encouraged several other groups all organized under the tireless efforts of Teddy Victor, Sebastian Thomas, and other Saint Davids activists.

The name Jewel (Joint Endeavour for Welfare, Education and Liberation) reflected the programme Agriculture, Newspaper for Education, Library and a Lecture Programme. Their main platform was that the poor in Grenada were suffering under common enemies: injustice, poverty. Their message to the masses was to stop fighting each other and come together to tackle the problems facing them. This message was, well received and the gap which existed because of party differences among the masses was consistently bridged.

This movement was officially born in March of

1972 and the first issue of its.

newspapers, named Jewel came out of the press Easter Sunday of 1972. The movement was based in the parish of St. David's and by year end a favourable impression was created throughout the island. The organization operated on a collective leadership basis with Unison White man as Chairman for the first year, Teddy Victor as Deputy and Editor, Sherwin Lazarus, Secretary, and Wittica Jeremiah Treasurer. A roadway used by the people of St. David's for many years was barricaded by Lord Bronlow who owned the land through which the road passed. As a result the

Jewel organization mobilized the people and forced Lord Bronlow to reopen the area. This was the first main event of the organization as it was a cause of concern for the Gairy government. Due to the impression created, the urban intellectual wanted to seize the opportunity to enter and control that which was already implemented.

A make shift urban organization named.

M.A.P.P. (Movement for the Assemblies of the People) comprising Maurice Bishop, Kenrick Radix, Jacqueline Creft, Ken Buckmire, Brizan and Unison Whiteman was created because of similarity in the programme advocated by Jewel. Whiteman spoke to the Jewel members about a merger which they accepted seeing that their voices had a common note, i.e. Assemblies of the people. Talks on the merger began in January of 1973. Because of the confidence placed in Whiteman he influenced the Jewel members in joining with M.A.P.P. which became a reality in March of 1973, one year after the formation of the Jewel Movement.

The new organization agreed on the following

principles (1) Collective leadership (2) Yearly election of officers, and (3) and Agreement to escalate the programme of Jewel

The name of the organization was changed to New Jewel Movement. The officers being Joint Coordinating secretaries - Unison Whiteman and Maurice Bishop, organizing secretary - Sebastian Thomas, Publication Secretary - Teddy Victor, and Finance Secretary - Esther Henry.

Because of the difficulty encountered by Esther Henry (she was from Birchgrove St. Andrews about 20 miles or so from St. George's where the meetings were held) in attending meetings

Kenrick Radix was made Finance Secretary. The move in making Radix responsible for Finance served the purpose of strengthening the Urban Section.

They set themselves the task of holding public meetings and building an organization. The response to the assemblies of the people gained momentum because the people saw themselves as Grenadians and not as party militants. The New Jewel Movement got its National boost after the 1973 Good Friday incident in which Jeremiah Richardson was shot by a police man of the Gairy Regime. The movement appealed for justice on humanitarian grounds.

[Editor's note: The 25 March issue of THE VINCENTIAN, which presumably contained part II of this series, was not received; part II is thus unavailable.]

[31 Mar 83 p 10]

[Text]

PART III.

Former allies and supporters of the Jewel were not only jailed and tortured some were assassinated by the P.R.G. Strachan Phillip, a valiant, skilled Grenadian living abroad was recalled by the Jewel to Grenada to lead the overthrow of the Gairy regime. He went to Grenada and on March 13, 1979, led the storming of the barracks and the toppling of the Gairy government forced to leave the army because of his objections to the attitude of Cuban and Guyanese military advisors he became indifferent to the P.R.G. who could not detain him because of fear of an upheaval in the armed forces. Weeks later, when

a bomb exploded during a rally, some paranoid governments soldiers in most cowardly fashion arbitrarily shelled Strachan Phillips house killing him in the holocaust.

The P.R.G.'s new tyranny is in many ways as harsh, as that of the former dictatorship. Brutality and the curtailments of basic liberties are seen in many areas such as religious persecution, the abolition of free press and continuing illegal assassinations.

Another patriotic Grenadian who had clamored against the injustices of the Gairy dictatorship, became a staunchest supporter of the P.R.G., and died in mysterious circumstances is Ralph Thompson.

He was detained June 1980. No charges were laid against him. He was tortured and died in jail without ever having been brought to trial.

Churches have suffered a smearing campaign. Priests are called counterrevolutionaries and C.I.A. Agents, while freedom of the press suffers severe constraints. A newspaper, Grenadian Voice, was shut down and some of its signees jailed. The important Caribbean Newspaper Contact, an organ often blind to the atrocities of the P.R.G., reacted surprisingly strong to the actions against the press.

Many of the basic rights of the Grenadian people have been trampled, for

example, the P.R.G. has monopolized the Press and Radio. The Torchlight, the newspaper which denounced the actions of the former regime and was therefore often harassed by it, the newspaper which did so much to bring about the rise of the P.R.G., was itself seized without compensation when it began to question some of the actions of the new regime. The Catholic Church in Grenada published a newsletter, The Catholic Focus, but it, too, was closed down by the P.R.G. Only the governments Free West Indian and the newspaper the Jewel could function.

A group of Grenadians gathered in June 1981 to support a new publication The Grenadian Voice, which obeyed all the existing guidelines for publishing mentioned by the P.R.G. The group included Mr Lloyd Noel, Former Attorney General of the P.R.G. itself, Mr Leslie Pierre and his brother Eric Pierre, a union official, Mr. Alister Hughes, President of the West Indian Federation of newspapermen and Mr Tillman Thomas, a lawyer and former associate of the P.R.G. Many of the group, among them L. Pierre, Thomas and Noel were thrown in Jail, Mr. Hughes was harassed and prevented from leaving the island to attend regional meetings of journalists. Besides, a retroactive press law was passed to justify such arbitrariness.

This monopolization of the means of communication hides from the world the widespread questionable practices of the P.R.G. such as murders of suspected dissidents as Strachan Phillip, smearing and indefinite detention of influential professionals

unions leaders and teachers, and the ruthless intimidation of the general populace.

The large West Indian monthly, the Caribbean Contact, usually sympathetic to Bishop's Regime called on the P.R.G. to "produce its promised constitution and establish the machinery, through which the people of Grenada, a member of the

Caribbean Community, can have the opportunity to endorse or reject a government at free and periodic elections," in its editorial of August 1981. The Caribbean Contact also condemned the "obvious harassment of Alister Hughes," who, the editorial noted, was "a journalist who did much to expose the excesses of Gairy's tyranny against Bishop and his N.J.M. Comrades." Hughes, harassed under the old regime of Gairy, was like so many others

Grenadians now suffering under the new dictatorship of Bishop. There was, then, no change; at least not for the better.

The P.R.G. has also been repressive in its treatment of popular religious groups such as the Muslims and Rastafarians, two groups which ironically contributed actively to the rise of Bishop and the overthrow of Gairy. Muslim leaders are in jail and 3 others were killed in their beds by P.R.G. soldiers. Rastafarian leaders Nha Nha and Jo Jo were also jailed. Nha Nha was shot and maimed while in custody.

The larger and more traditional churches have also been harassed. Apart from the closing of the Catholic Focus, priests from both Anglican and Catholic bodies have been searched, villified and labelled C.I.A. agents and counter-revolutionaries. The

P.R.G.'s excesses have been condemned by Bishops of both churches. Bishop Drexel Gomez, head of the Anglican church in Barbados has, stated that "the P.R.G. regime will probably continue to rule by the power of the gun, and the bomb until a new order is born." Bishop Gomez stressed the importance of a vibrant public opinion.

The inhumane attitude of the P.R.G. is also seen in the treatment of workers and union officers. Some of them, intimidated fled from the island, others such as Eric Pierre were detained. Kenneth Budhlall head of the Tevoli Young, Workers Cooperative (affiliates of CLAT) and founder of the first nocturnal school for the alphabetization of adult workers in Grenada is still in jail. Budhlall and his workers had been leading opponents of the ousted Gairy regime, had suffered, imprisonment, under Gairy and were commanders in the uprising that overthrew it. Cases like Budhlall are, the clearest indicators, the dishonest and inhuman

nature of the P.R.G. If one wants to make an objective assessment of the actions and intentions of the P.R.G. the best place to begin it is by inquiring about the present status of the top former allies of Bishop, that is of those who helped him to get into power. It is a chain of horrors, of the P.R.G.'s murdering ex-officers in bed; of forced exile, of savage smear campaigns against influential grass-roots figures or suspected dissidents. It is a record of violence, intimidation, militaristic and totalitarian usurpation of the peoples' authority and a denial of the right of Grenadians to self-determination,

Grenadian Refugee's Story

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 31 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

Grenada for some time now - or since the revolution in 1979 has been in the spotlight. Discussion have centered mainly around the communist ideology of the People's Revolutionary Government of Maurice Bishop; the lack of freedom of the press and freedom of speech; the holding of people without charges or trial and treatment of detainees in the jail; and more recently the presence of arms and anti-aircraft at locations around the shores of that island.

How much of this must we believe? Recently a detainee, Randolph "Tuf Tuf" Charles, was in St. Vincent. He explained some of the "facts" regarding treatment he had experienced at that jail - the Richmond Hill Concentration Camp according to him.

Charles said that his father, Ralph Thompson a one time member of the PRG became a victim of the revolution because he expressed dissatisfaction with certain brutalities. As a result of this he was kidnapped.

Months after, while he (Randolph) was working in St. Georges, someone came to him and at gunpoint asked for a "friendly chat." He acquiesced. He was taken to a station where he was told by an unidentified man, that he was acting on orders from high authority.

Charles stated that he was put in jail from that time and spent 21 torturing months without being accused of committing a crime.

In the underground cell (a cell originally condemned by the revolutionary authorities) where he was kept he was brutalized, tortured and kept in handcuffs for over a year.

His father he said died in jail on the 22nd October 1981, as a result of poisoning. After his father's death, he attempted to see the authorities but his request, was refused.

He then went on a hunger strike as a means of protest. As a result of this he "won the battle" and was allowed to speak with Mr Victor Husbands. Charles described,

Husbands as the chief, tortured and interrogator, for the government. He promised Charles that he would be released in a couple of days.

This promise said Charles was only to get him off the hunger strike which had lasted 31 days. He was put back in the underground cell with handcuffs and locked up for 24 hours with no sunshine allowed.

After feeling "down and out", he asked for a doctor and one Dr. Tom Tom who came, recommended that he get one hour sunshine a day. This Charles, said, he told to the chief of the jail, Mr. Lambert. But, he remarked 'It's not what the doctor said anymore is what we say-which is no sunshine! He termed that 'Counter Revolutionist don't have, to get sunshine'. However Mr Lambert still allowed one of the officers to open-up the cell for me to get some sunshine', said Charles.

At times he said he was beaten up with the gun but when he was having a bath.

On several occasions the tap was turned off. He displayed a cut on the forehead that he claimed took six stitches as proof of brutality.

Charles explained that when he told Justin Roberts who he also termed an interrogator and torturer of the way he was being prevented from having a bath, he was told again that such actions were a part of the counter revolution. He was taken back to his cell and later released.

Charles who flew from Grenada was in political assylum here in St. Vincent and was making arrangements to go to America to be in political assylum in that country.

This was not to be, he received information that some one was expected here from the PRG to get him so he escaped hurriedly for an unknown destination.

Meanwhile a columnist in, the Trinidad Express

Sunday March 27, 1983 described the

parade staged on Sunday March 13 to mark the Fourth Anniversary of the birth off the Revolution "About seven brand new armoured tanks, six anti-aircraft guns, two or three huge search lights eight or so personnel carriers paraded around a field at Tanteen just outside of the city."

US President Ronald Reagan's recent remarks about Grenada's build up of arms with aggressive intentions against the, United States has caused a great deal of hostility in, the Caribbean island.

Bishop is convinced of Reagan's attempts to destabilize the Revolution. He is determined "to show Ronald Reagan that if he tries to land here, the Grenadian people will stop him."

Charge of CARICOM Indifference

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 14 Apr 83 p 7

[Article by E. L. C.]

[Text]

METAPHORICALLY speaking, red herrings are attempts to divert attention from the main question by some side issue, real or imagined, but hopefully capable of getting people away from the core matter. Sometimes such diversionary tactics can be quite bizarre.

Literally, it just so happens, a red herring, which is to say one dried, smoked and salted, drawn across a fox's path destroys the scent and sets the hounds at fault. The connection between the literal and the metaphorical is easy to appreciate.

So is the situation in Grenada, where Maurice Bishop and his People's Revolutionary Government whipping up enthusiasm for the fourth anniversary of their Revolution, are using a most bizarre red herring: the threat of an American invasion.

As to whether they are succeeding or not, the reports from Grenada are contradictory. Mr. George Worme, writing for the Caribbean News Agency, assures us that "for about more than two weeks now there has been a kind of anti-American hysteria in Grenada." Mr. John Grigsby, of the London Daily Telegraph, writing from Grenada, assures us that "there is no sign that the Grenadians are taking any of this seriously. They do not appear to treat the Revolution, with its non-stop barrage of propaganda over

Radio Free Grenada, with very much respect."

For launching this red herring on the troubled waters of Grenada, Bishop selected an impressive recent parade of P.R.G. forces. At Tanteen, Grenadians got their first good glimpse of new military equipment and weaponry supplied him by his overseas friends and masters. The collection included six field guns, six armoured personnel carriers, two huge searchlights, and several Russian-made lorries.

On this occasion, Bishop spoke dramatically about the threatened U.S. invasion plans. Grenada, he said, was prepared to resist such aggression: "We know that in the final analysis that we and we alone as the owners of this tiny little rock of land that we live on, have the sacred responsibility and duty of defending our land."

But all the red herrings in the world will not divert the minds of honest Grenadians for long from the bloody history of the New Jewel Movement.

They will not, for example, forget Strachan Phillip.

Strachan Phillip was a Grenadian, living abroad, when Maurice Bishop invited him to return home to join in the glorious Revolution. It was he, in fact, who took charge of the forces storming the army barracks. And it was this action which established the Revolutionary Government.

In due course, Mr. Phillip became disillusioned. He

resigned the P.R.G., but was allowed to go freely because Bishop feared public reaction to any attempt to hold him prisoner.

Not long afterwards, P.R.G. "soldiers" shelled his home, killing him in the barrage. That is the norm for the new dispensation in Grenada. Eric Gairy must look on admiringly. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

Ralph Thompson is another name to be remembered in Grenada, and which will never be erased by frenetic propaganda. In case you do not know of him, he was detained in June 1980. No charges were brought against him. He was simply tortured to death in jail, where he died on October 22, 1981.

Just recently, Randolph Charles, a detainee, escaped to St. Vincent and told his story to The Vincentian. He is the son of the Ralph Thompson mentioned above. He was peacefully at work when he was invited, at gun point, for a "friendly chat." The friendly chat turned out to be detention and torture.

Charles was hoping to remain in St. Vincent until he could get to the United States, but, receiving information that the P.R.G. had sent to get him, he fled the island. His present whereabouts are not known.

In particular, the Bishop record against religion follows the normal pattern of atheistic Communism. Muslims and Rastafarians have been especially targets, despite the

fact that, of all the churches in Grenada, these probably helped him most to win power.

Three Muslim leaders were shot in their beds; others are still in jail. Rasta leader, Jo Jo and Nha Nha were jailed, the latter being shot and maimed while in custody.

The Anglican and Catholic priests have also joined in the condemnation of brutality and the attacks on freedom. For their trouble Catholic Focus has been banned, and church premises searched. The priests have been vilified on public platforms as agents of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Another former P.R.G. supporter, equally disillusioned and still languishing in jail is Kenneth Budhiall. This young man was

a strong opponent of Eric Gairy's dictatorship, and ran a Workers' Cooperative, the members of which were young people. He is an ex-commander in the P.R.G. ranks, but this did not help him when he criticised the ruthlessness and unnecessary cruelties of the regime.

To close, let me quote from an article, "Terror Next Door: Be Concerned," appearing in a recent issue of *The Vincentian*:

"If one wants to make an objective assessment of the actions and intentions of the P.R.G., the best place to begin it is by inquiring about the present status of the top former allies of Bishop, that is of those who helped him to get into power. It is a chain of

horrors, of the P.R.G.'s murdering ex-officers in bed, of forced exile, of savage smear campaigns against influential grassroots figures or suspected dissidents. It is a record of violence, intimidation, totalitarian usurpation of the people's authority, and a denial of the right of Grenadians to self-determination."

In other words, it is typically on the Leninist model.

Yet Caricom leaders are content — if not deliriously happy — to truck with this despot on the grounds that Grenada's internal affairs are no concern of theirs. It is a form of cowardice which they will regret.

Liberation Group on Oppression

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN 11. English 15 Apr 83 p 10

[Article by Dyrick Charles: "Grenada National Mass Movement Liberation Stand On the Grenada Situation"]

[Text]

We demand that freedom, equal rights and justice be given to every Grenadian, regardless of what. We demand elections, freedom of expression, and a constitution (be it a communist, socialist, or whatever constitution but we want to define legitimate rule). We demand the release or immediate trial of all detainees. We demand immediate disarmament in that small one hundred and thirty-three square miles island. We denounce the misuse of state power which is a crime against humanity. We denounce those oppressive measures, in the name of people, freedom and security.

We further demand that justice be given to: Strauchn Phillip, Iry Bishop, Monsana Isadora -

18 months baby.

We demand the release of all young babies from detention. We demand that all Cubans, Russians and other terrorist technocrats be removed from Grenada. We demand that all the null and void laws be burnt or be removed from state use.

We call on all Caricom Leaders, trade unionists, businessmen, workers, religious peoples, Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC), non-aligned heads of government, concerned politicians to denounce that terrorist government in Grenada that operate under the disguise of people, freedom and justice. We believe that if the Caribbean is one and the ship in the Caribbean has hole in the final analysis, everything would sink. So take a stand

now. We can remember well in 1974, that your support had helped against Gairy's oppression, but now that the situation is more violent than that of the above time, your service is needed even more. Bishop is calling for war as an excuse for his open aggression and hostility towards other Caribbean leaders and Grenadians at large. We want to make it quite clear, that this could be solved without war. Moreover, if our conscience is really speaking to us clearly and we could be concerned about South Africa that is so many miles away from us, if we are really concerned about South African people, the question is, what is the difference between the South African people and the Grenada people? The South African white racists have apartheid in their law to rule

terroristically and there is no hypocrisy in their tyranny. But to see a gang of Nihilists who was talking out and still continues to lobby pretensively on the behalf of the oppressed man, cause so much terror to be inflicted in their own land, only shows that they are worse than South African Apartheid, because South Africa don't lobby on the behalf of the poor man, because they make it quite clear that they are oppressors.

We recognize that, some people remain silent all because of friendship with those oppressors in Grenada- while others say, I don't want to be involved. What we have to say to you today, is that God is helping us bear our persecution and crucifixion.. but sometime in the near future yours will come. Further still I would like to ask including you also, what is the difference between oppression by Lenin and oppression by Hitler? Oppression is oppression. So those who say that they are socialist and they are genuine, is there a distinction between

American brutality and oppression and Russian hostility and oppression? So be it we want to look at Burnham of Guyana's evils, Baby Doc's evils, El Salvador or elsewhere. We should understand that there is no difference in Castro, Bishop, Guatemala, etc.

On the 2nd of April, a peaceful Grenadian crossing the market square, up came a socialist, by the name of Rose. Stop the young man, "You doing a good job with the article in The Vincentian". The young man was flabbergasted. Rose continued, "Yes Fletcher, you is a counter, but security watching you, you are a counter." What we want the public to understand is that these people who call themselves socialists are cowards and paranoids and possessing these traits, they are capable of doing anything to wrong people. Where about Rose come from to be so involved in Grenadians affairs to be calling people counter? Let us tell you Rose, don't go to Fletcher come to us, we will talk if you want to and if you have any, other

language to speak your self and Bishop we will speak it. Rose you know what is a counter, and we presume you call yourself a revolutionary. Define that in your Justice.

Revolutionary means fear facts and hinderance to the oppressed man. If you want to tamper with the irrelevant people stop. We are asking you to come to Georgetown and ask for Derick Charles of Grenada Mass Movement Liberation. We have two definitions for you and one clarity for a certain lawyer who thinks that this is linked up with U.S. imperialism.

A revolutionary is one who has no compromise, stands for freedom justice and equality or equal rights for one and all. JESUS

CHRIST WAS A REVOLUTIONARY A

counter-revolutionary is one who stands in the way of the former, and to clarify the lawyers'

doubts, for US part Grenadians could kill each other, but the geo-politics of Grenada America may be concerned with, but we are no part of the USA.,

Reader's Complaint

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 15 Apr 83 p 5

[Letter to the Editor]

[Text]

April 3, 1983.

The Editress,
The Vincentian,

Dear Madame,

I have been noting over the past few weeks a deliberate effort on that part of your newspaper to step up an hysterical anti-Grenada campaign using

all sorts of wild and reckless allegations from dubious sources. However for sheer irresponsibility, your last issue beats all. It has so disgusted me that I am driven to write you these few comments.

Firstly, I note that the stepped-up anti-Grenada campaign by the VINCENTIAN comes at a time, when the Grenada

Revolution is under serious threat from the Reagan administration. Is this by accident or design? Is it intended to give the Grenada Revolution a bad image in the eyes of Vincentians so that if and when a mercenary invasion is launched, Vincentian people would not say a word in protest or solidarity?

Secondly, I find it amazing that your paper which claims to be the "national newspaper" has devoted more space and lines to, slanderous attacks on the Grenada Revolution than to the serious problems facing the Vincentian people.

I recall for instance, your constant fussing over how long should be comments by opposition parties on the Representation of the People Act and your threats not to publish such comments if they were more than 300 words. No such restrictions seem to be applied to the lying anti-Grenada propaganda campaign. Why? Does your paper attach more importance to slander than to serious infringements on the democratic rights of Vincentian people?

Thirdly, I find your policy as regards the publicity given to wild charges against the Grenada government to be contradictory to your historical record. I know for a fact that many persons have gone to the VINCENTIAN with stories of brutality against them by the local police or of victimisation or unfair treatment by their employers.

Your response has always been that you could not publish their allegations until you had checked with the persons or authorities accused.

Did you follow this policy in regard to the allegations against the Grenada government? Did you ask that government to comment on the charges made? That you could so willingly allow your pages to be used by unknown persons and shady characters for such slanderous attacks against a regional government, can only cast a slur on the integrity of the VINCENTIAN newspaper, its editor and its owner Mr Egerton Richards. That, in other circumstances you would call irresponsible journalism. I for my part, would agree with Maurice Bishop's,

characterisation of it as "selfish journalism."

The VINCENTIAN newspaper has never given any prominent coverage to the many successes of the Grenadian Revolution, to the free education, free health care, free milk programme, to its efforts in wiping out illiteracy, to the Grenada government's unmatched regional record of efficiency, proper management and accountability, to the real involvement of the Grenadian people in running their affairs..

Instead it prefers to toe the line of Reagan, the CIA and the co-ordinated propaganda campaign of the big-shot Caribbean

Publishers and Broadcasters Association against Grenada, were those your instructions in Washington and Barbados?

I see your campaign against Grenada as a dangerous co-ordinated action designed to smear the image of Grenada, to prepare the ground locally for the imminent mercenary invasion and also to divert the Vincentian people away from the serious problems they face.

I condemn it as distasteful and disgusting. By engaging in such a propaganda war, the VINCENTIAN has stooped to a new low at the service of the CIA and its regional stooges. You have lost all credibility in my eyes,

Finally, why doesn't your newspaper send someone to Grenada to see for themselves. Won't that help?

Yours Sincerely,
Renwick Rose.

Editor's Note: The utterly ridiculous attacks in our motives have certainly raised the question are the data prescribed on CIA activities as unfounded? (2) We will try to live with your disgust

TRINIDAD, JAMAICA, OTHERS DISCUSS TRADE COMPROMISE STEPS

View in Kingston

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] Compromise proposals for settling the trade impasse between Jamaica and its CARICOM partners, notably Trinidad and Barbados, have been accepted by Trinidad and are to be formally adopted at a meeting to be held here on Monday.

Sources in Jamaica said yesterday that the Trinidad Government, which has been studying the proposals in association with representatives of that country's private sector, reached agreement on them on Thursday.

A CANA report from Port of Spain yesterday set out the position as follows:

Industry and Commerce Minister, Desmond Cartey, said that Trinidad will reconvene a meeting of senior government officials from Jamaica, Barbados, Guyana and Antigua and Barbuda on Monday in Port of Spain to "discuss the issues and difficulties facing the region."

"I have every reason to expect that within a very short time a positive solution will be obtained," Mr. Cartey told some 120 participants at the annual general meeting here of the Barbados-based Caribbean association of industry and commerce (CAIC).

He added that a representative from the Trinidad private sector would participate at the meeting, which senior government officials from Dominica and St. Lucia are also expected to attend.

Mr. Cartey said that during the past two weeks, trade between Trinidad and Tobago and the rest of CARICOM had been affected to the tune of 95 million dollars (one TT dollar 41 cents U.S.).

Monday's meeting will follow a similar one held last week in Kingston by Jamaica Foreign Trade Minister Hugh Shearer, his Barbados counterpart Bernard St. John, Antigua and Barbuda's Lester Bird and Mr. Cartey, in an effort to iron out the trade problems in the community since Jamaica's January 10

introduction of a two-tiered currency exchange system which tended to put non Jamaican producers at a decided trade disadvantage.

Jamaica's economic measures, which were followed by Barbados floating its dollar against the Jamaica currency and Trinidad placing all CARICOM imports into that country under licence, have virtually curtailed trade within the 12 nation community.

Manufacturers claimed that the new system gave Jamaica manufacturers an unfair advantage in selling price both in Jamaica and in the other CARICOM manufacturers' home territories. This was because the Jamaica Manufacturer could import raw materials at a far lower price than his CARICOM counterparts.

Reports out of last week's meeting said Jamaica had made certain concessions which Mr. St. John and Mr. Bird, representing the organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) were willing to accept, but on which Mr. Cartey deferred commitment, subject to consultation with his colleagues in Port of Spain.

Next Monday's meeting also follows a meeting of CARICOM industry ministers held in Jamaica from April 11 to 14 when the trade issues were also aired.

Mr. Cartey said the difficulties which had developed as a result of the Jamaican economic measures had been the subject of intensive discussion and negotiations over the past few weeks.

Trinidad Assessment

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

SENIOR officials of Jamaica, Barbados, Antigua, Guyana, Dominica and Saint Lucia are expected to meet in Port-of-Spain on Monday for talks on issues and difficulties facing the region.

Speaking at a luncheon of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) at the Trinidad Hilton yesterday, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Desmond Cartey, said that the Trinidad and Tobago Government which was taking stock of its role and recognising its responsibility for the future of the integration movement, has taken steps to reconvene the meeting of senior Government officials as a matter of urgency.

More than \$95m worth of business with Trinidad was affected, he said.

Government officials of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) met in Jamaica last week to discuss trade and other regional issues. Mr. Cartey, as Industry Minister

represented
Trinidad and To-
bago at the
talks.

Mr. Cartey said yesterday that Monday's meeting would include a representative of the local private sector.

He added that he had every reason to expect that within a very short time a positive solution would be obtained to regional problems.

Earlier, Mr. Cartey noted that the common market was subjected to strains as a result of the introduction of the parallel exchange rate system by the Government of Jamaica; the resulting floating of its currency by the Barbadian Government and the Trinidad and Tobago Government's response of placing more goods on the negative list.

"The difficulties which have developed have been the subject of intensive discussions and negotiations over the past few weeks," said Mr. Cartey.

IN GOOD FAITH

He said over the past two weeks Trinidad and Tobago lost \$95 million in trade as a result of the introduction of the Jamaica two-tiered currency system.

There was no doubt that the system, introduced by the Jamaican Government, was instituted in good faith with national interests in mind. "However, the question which

would be asked is "to what extent should national interests be allowed to be in conflict with regional obligations at the expense of more long-term benefits which can be gained through regional co-operation," said Mr. Cartey.

He added that any decision the Caribbean Governments might make in the interest of national aspirations, was an appreciation of the fact that the regional market was an extension of the local market of each member State.

"During all the discussions which have ensued, what has been evident is that the Caribbean common market has an inner strength which has allowed it to withstand the tremendous pressures which are being applied.

"At no time, however, has there been any thought other than that means must be found to solve the problems," said Mr. Cartey.

He pointed out to the luncheon gathering that the Trinidad and Tobago Government was committed to the goals of regionalism and would remain receptive to ideas emanating from the CAIC in terms of the strategies that could be utilised in improving and strengthening the process of integration in both the public sector and private sector.

The CAIC is holding its 28th annual general meeting at the Trinidad Hilton.

Stalemate at Follow-up Meeting

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Apr 83 pp 1, 17

[Text]

NO AGREEMENT WAS reached in the talks being held in Trinidad since Monday aimed at settling the trade impasse between Jamaica and its CARICOM partners.

Points raised at the meeting by technical officers studying the formula proposed by Jamaica for settling the problem created by Jamaica's establishing of its parallel-market currency rate caused the meeting to end with no final decision being reached.

As the formula had been more or less accepted at Ministerial level before being sent to the technical officers for study, it has been decided that the technocrats would report back to their respective Governments on the points raised.

Jamaica's two representatives at the meeting were Mr. Frank Francis, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; and Mr. C. T. Brown, one of the Deputy Governors of the Bank of Jamaica.

They were due to return home last night and will formally report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade today.

This development has come as a disappointment to members of the exporting community in Jamaica who are anxiously awaiting a resolution of the impasse so that they can resume trading with CARICOM, particularly with Trinidad, the most lucrative market.

Because of the impasse, goods from Jamaica are not being exported to Trinidad which has placed a restriction on the entry of these goods pending a settlement of the exchange-rate problem.

But goods from Trinidad are coming into Jamaica, a fact which disturbs the local exporters.

News that this week's talks in Port of Spain have ended in no agreement being reached was greeted with dismay by local exporters yesterday. "We are back to Square One," a leading exporter complained.

A CANA report from Port of Spain yesterday told the following story:

Senior Government officials from some Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member-countries today ended what a delegate described as tough bargaining on proposals to improve trade in the 12-nation group.

The two days of talks, attended by trade and finance officials from Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados, Guyana, Antigua, Dominica and St. Lucia, came almost four months after Jamaica introduced a controversial two-tier currency exchange system.

The discussions focused on proposals Jamaica had made for ending the trade impasse which its new currency arrangement had triggered in the community.

"A delegate, who preferred not to be named said: "We have been negotiating. It has been tough".

NO OFFICIAL statement was issued after the closed-door talks. De-

legates were leaving here this evening to report back to their respective Governments.

Jamaica now has a rate of exchange of 1.78 J. dollars for a U.S. dollar for special imports, and a much higher rate, set by commercial banks, for others, including several from its CARICOM trading partners.

Other Caribbean exports complained that the new arrangements made their goods more expensive in Kingston, and this threatened a sharp fall-off in purchases.

Barbados floated its dollar against Jamaica's in a move Central Bank Governor Dr. Courtney Blackman said was aimed at giving back the Barbadian exporters the competitive edge; and Trinidad and Tobago announced some restrictions on imports from the Community.

Following talks in Kingston between Trade and Industry Ministers from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados, and a Minister representing seven small CARICOM member countries, Jamaica announced proposals for improving the situation.

The proposals discussed by the delegates were:

- to operate an export development fund at the parallel market rate of exchange.

- to fix on a weekly basis the parallel rate for CARICOM transaction, and

- to remove CARICOM imports from quota and institute automatic licensing for monitoring purposes, with strict application of the area of origin criteria.

JAMAICAN, BARBADIAN OFFICIALS ADDRESS INDUSTRY MINISTRIES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Apr 83 p 16

[Text]

Minister of Industry and Commerce, the Hon. Douglas Vaz, on Wednesday morning, April 13, brought the message of industrial diversification and increase of exports to the opening session of the third CARICOM meeting of Ministers of Industry at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in New Kingston.

Speaking before the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, opened the two day meeting, Mr. Vaz said: "For us to successfully face the world economic crisis, the worst in 50 years, we must diversify our industry and increase our exports."

"We must also ready ourselves, not only to survive this grim world recession but to respond positively when the recession ends as it must. I am particularly pleased that we shall be devoting attention to the question of increasing our exports as it is well known that the Jamaican Government has strongly emphasised the importance of export orientation and the relaxation of the protectionist basis."

"I am pleased to say that the working group on production and export incentives also sees the need for moving away from protectionism."

Mr. Vaz said it was timely for member states to re-examine more closely the existing levels of production, especially those based on quantitative restrictions, with a view to determining the degree to which they were inhibiting production and could be eliminated, reduced, or substituted by alternative means of protection, in order to stimulate greater efficiency and exports, especially to Third World countries.

Jamaica, Mr. Vaz said, was undertaking the structural adjustment of its economy and had gathered considerable information and experience in how to transform a traditionally import-oriented economy into one which is export-oriented.

"We would be only too happy to share our information and experiences with you and indeed to discuss them with you," he stated.

On the CARICOM movement itself, Mr. Vaz said that this was not the first time that concern had been expressed about "our movement and its future. There have always been the pessimists lurking around, eager to use the slightest possibility of conflict as a pretext to cast gloomy shadows over the movement."

"The fact that we have been able to survive for these many years is itself an accomplishment, though we cannot feel complacent about just being in existence. To justify our existence we have to prove that it is not beyond us to show dynamism, pragmatism, and realism: we have to constantly adapt ourselves to change changing times and tides, while at the same time maintaining the spirit of regional integration movement."

"We have to be realistic enough to balance regional developmental needs with our national development needs and constraints. We have to be pragmatic and realise it is not only politics which is the art of the possible, but economics..."

"We in Jamaica refuse to join pessimists who would use potential difficulties of the movement to suggest that our problems are bigger than us. We refuse to believe that sensible and rational men cannot come together to reason and harmonise respective national goals and objectives."

"We refuse to believe our problems are intractable. We refuse to believe that we should throw temper tantrums when faced with problems, rather than seek amicable solutions."

Mr. Vaz asked: "Is it naive of us to believe that if the major European economic grouping can survive its sometimes bitter divisions, then we in the Caribbean cannot stick together and work harmoniously?"

"We must not implicitly subscribe to the view that we in the Caribbean don't have the will, astuteness and tenacity of purpose to work together for the future. The legacy of disbelief in ourselves and in our potential continues in some peculiar ways. We must beware of them and consciously resist them."

The Hon. Bernard St. John, Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados and Minister of Industry and Trade, in his remarks, said that he was "particularly heartened" by the speeches of Mr. Seaga and Mr. Vaz.

"It is absolutely clear to all of us that CARICOM is of great benefit to each and every member state," said Mr. St. John, who spoke before the final speaker, Mr. Lester Bird, Deputy

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.

The present problems of CARICOM could only be solved by rational dialogue, Mr. St. John said. He was glad that Mr. Vaz had reminded the meeting of the problems of other integration meetings.

CARICOM, he said, "was no longer a politician movement but a businessman's movement. Feedback could be obtained from unions as well as representatives of the manufacturing and commercial sectors in the region."

Mr. St. John said he firmly believed that CARICOM's problems could be solved. The integration movement called for recognition by each partner that any action it take would have an impact on the other partners.

Mr. St. John ended by giving the assurance that just as in 1978 in Kingston other issues affecting CARICOM had been resolved "so in '83 we will resolve problems bedeviling the movement."

Deputy Secretary General of the CARICOM Secretariat, Mr. Roderick Rainford, who presided, referred to problems needing to be resolved by CARICOM Ministers and commented, "some of these problems may appear difficult in the extreme and the temptation to leave well alone may well present itself as an illusory easy way out."

"But CARICOM Ministers of Industry and members of delegation here assembled may well take courage and inspiration from the fact that in

response to the new issues in industrial programming that have arisen for attention, the principal organs of the community - the Conference of the Heads of Government and the Common Market Council of Ministers - have expressed commitment, to the principle of finding solutions so that member states can continue collectively to pursue the treaty objective of introducing regional industrial programming in CARICOM."

"If the principal organs of the community have shown that they are ready to stay the course and move towards meaningful industrial programming in the region, the Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for industry stands challenged to do no less. And that is ~~the~~ notwithstanding the fact that this meeting commences under the shadow of other troubling problems that have recently arisen."

"The attention of the entire region is now riveted on how the leader of the Community Common Market will resolve current difficulties in trade and payments. And as this meeting gets underway, you will no doubt be acutely aware of the intimate relationship between the ultimate objectives and purpose of regional industrial programming on the one hand, the the maintenance and improvements of trade and payments on the other."

Mr Rainford said everyone was hoping that continuing efforts to resolve the trade and payments problems would endure until satisfactory answers were found... "because we dare not be pessimistic, even while our eyes are fixed on the most discouraging realities."

He urged the Ministers to approach the meeting in a positive mood.

CSO: 3298/558

TWELVE-MEMBER CAIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NAMED FOR COMING YEAR

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Apr 83 p 4

[Text]

THE Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) has named its new 12-member executive committee to serve for the new year.

It is headed by the newly elected president, Mr. Tommy Gatchliffe, and includes the following:

Mr. Sam Mahfood (Jamaica) — vice-president at large with special responsibility for membership;

Mr. Clovis Beauregard (Martinique/Guadeloupe) — vice-president at large with responsibility for CAIC relations with non-Caricom members;

Mr. Roy Collister (Jamaica) — vice-president for economic development;

Mr. Sidney Knox (Trinidad and Tobago) — vice-president for business/government relations;

Mr. Peter D'Aguiar (Guyana) — vice-president for training;

Mr. Will Kelsick (St. Kitts/Nevis) — vice-president for technical assistance;

Mr. Len Hackshaw (Trinidad and Tobago) — vice-president for Organisational Affairs;

Mr. Richard Menezes (Grenada) — Treasurer; and Mr. Norman Rolle (Dominica) — secretary.

Two ex-officio members — Mr. John Stanley Goddard (Barbados);

CAIC's immediate past President, and CAIC's executive director, Mr. Pat Thompson (Guyana) make up the 12-member committee.

NEW LIFE

At the organisation's meeting held at the weekend at the Trinidad Hilton, the newly elected President, Mr. Gatchliffe underscored the need for a drive to expand membership of the CAIC throughout the Caricom region.

In order to generate new life in a membership drive, the meeting established a Task Force to deal specifically with membership.

Mr. Mahfood of Jamaica will head the membership drive, and other members of the team will include — Mr. Michael King (St. Kitts/Nevis); Mr. Norman Rolle (Dominica); Mr. Noel Walling (Antigua); Senator Ornan Monplaisir (St. Lucia); Mr. Franklyn Young (St. Vincent); Mr. Richard Menezes (Grenada); Mr. Michael Brassington (Guyana); Mr. Ken Gordon (Trinidad and Tobago); Mr. John Patterson (Barbados); Mr. Shervin Thompson (Bahamas), and Mr. Clovis Beauregard for the French, Dutch and Spanish-speaking Caribbean.

BRIEFS

CARIBBEAN BANANA OUTPUT--St. Georges, Grenada, Monday, (CANA)--Banana production in Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Cominica is officially forecast to rise by almost eight per cent this year, a spokesman for the fruit industry has reported. But the higher production level being maintained will depend on whether or not growers get a more realistic price, said Harry Atkinson, president of the Windward Islands Banana Growers Association (WINBAN). The 1983 forecast for the islands is that production will climb from the 106 755 tons of 1982 to 115 000 tons, Mr Atkinson told growers who met here. "The problem is how to sustain the level of production now achieved," he remarked. "This cannot be done in the face of heavy losses the banana grower is now experiencing." He described the price that had been offered to farmers as well below production costs. Unless something is done to ensure that the grower gets a reasonable price, he added, the enthusiasm evident last year for rehabilitating banana fields damaged by hurricane or disease would disappear. Hurricanes in 1979 and 1980 destroyed hundreds of acres of banana plantations in the Windward Islands. In addition, Grenada has been fighting a disease called Moko which has reduced its production. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Apr 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/558

HUNGARIAN ENVOY ON 6-DAY VISIT TO MEET GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Apr 83 p 2

[Text]

The Ambassador-designate of Hungary Dr. Karoly Szabo, arrived here last Thursday for a six-day official visit to the island.

Dr. Szabo is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Louis R. Tuli tomorrow and hold discussions with senior officials of that ministry.

The following day he is expected to present his credentials to Governor-General Sir Deighton War.

Later that day the Ambassador-designate will meet with Senator O'Brien Trotman, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office.

On Wednesday Dr. Szabo will meet Mr. Bernard St. John, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, as well as Minister of Education Miss Billie Miller.

Dr. Szabo entered the Hungarian diplomatic service in 1954. Since then he has served his country in Britain, Japan and Tanzania. He was also Hungary's Ambassador to the United States from 1971 to 1975 after which he returned to Budapest as head of the Latin American Department in the Foreign Ministry. He is currently Hungary's resident Ambassador to Mexico.

Barbados and Hungary established diplomatic relations in 1978 and cordial relations exist between the two countries. Dr. Szabo replaces Mr. Lajos Nagy who ended his tour of duty in 1981. The Ambassador's discussions with Government ministers are expected to focus on possible areas of co-operation between the two countries. (GIS).

CSO: 3298/559

SUGAR PRICE SUPPORT PLAN STUDIED; LOCAL PRICES INCREASE

Government Plans

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 16 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

The price of sugar in Barbados has gone up and there are now two types on the market.

Special sugar is now being sold at 74 cents per pound or 164 cents per kilogram wholesale and 82 cents per pound or 180 cents per kilogram retail.

Regular sugar is being sold

at 68 cents per pound or 145 cents per kilogram wholesale or 73 cents per pound or 160 cents per kilogram retail.

Agriculture Minister, Dr. Richard Cheltenham, when announcing last week that a new price will be set, said Government would have been careful to make sure that sugar, particularly on high

demand to industrial users will be set at a level that the ripple effect in terms of the cost of living in the wider economy will be minimised.

He said a price distortion had evolved in relation to the former three types of sugar sold — browns, yellows and straws, hence the two new types.

Price Hikes

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by Irvine Reid]

[Text]

Barbados, whose tourist industry has been on the decline over the past three years, recorded a 3.2 per cent fall in tourist arrivals for the first two months of this year, according to official figures released here yesterday.

The Barbados Statistical Department said that for January and February some 61 994 visitors came to this sunshine island, compared with 64 032 for the corresponding period last year.

February's tourist arrivals alone declined by 4.9 per cent to 31 403 compared with 33 033 in 1982.

The United States (51.5 per cent), Trinidad and Tobago (9.4 per cent) and Venezuela (61.3 per cent) were the markets recording an increase.

But all of the other main markets — Canada, the United Kingdom, West Germany and the rest of Europe as well as the rest of the English-speaking Caribbean Community (Caricom) — registered declines during February and for the two-month period under review.

Tourism is Barbados' number one foreign exchange earner accounting for about a third of Gross Domestic Product. The industry expects tourist receipts to decline between 10 and 14 per cent over the 1981 figure.

Arrivals from the United States in February were 12 900 compared with 8 563 last year and Canada 7 352 as against 11 318 in 1982 — a decline of 35 per cent.

Tourists coming from the United Kingdom declined by 23 per cent in February to 3 726 compared with 4 842 for 1982.

The Government Department said that visitors from Trinidad and Tobago during the second month of this year moved from 2 340 in 1982 to 2 500, while arrivals from the other Caribbean Community Caricom countries declined by 14.4 per cent to 2 086 compared with 2 439 in 1982.

Arrivals from Barbados' only South American market, Venezuela, moved from 191 to 308, while those from West Germany fell by 21.2 per cent from 919 last year to 724.

Cruise ship arrivals were down by 17.8 per cent for January-February this year compared to 1982 with passengers numbering 23 163 as against 28 180 for the first two months of last year. (CANA).

CSO: 3298/559

INFLATION RATE FOR YEAR ENDING FEB '83 DOWN TO 6.8 PERCENT

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 15 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

The annual rate of inflation continued to decline and reached the level of 6.8 per cent for the 12-month period ended February, 1983. The inflation rate has been falling steadily each month since August last year.

The index showed a marginal increase from 133.9 points at December, 1982 to 134.2 points at January, 1983 and remained unchanged during February.

Among the major groups, the index for alcoholic beverages and tobacco rose by 2.8 per cent in response to price increases for beer, rum and whiskey. The index for household operations and supplies was the only other index to increase by more than 1 per cent. This rose by 1.2 per cent following increases in the prices of dressing tables, pillow cases, mattresses and insecticides. The indices of Fuel and Light, food, transportation and medical and personal care were 1.3 per cent, 0.4 per cent and 0.3 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively lower than

at the end of 1982.

In the food group prices declined for a very wide range of items, including salted meat; flying fish; sardines; butter; chocolate drinks; carrots; dried peas and bananas. The prices of sugar, confectionery, animal and poultry feed and sauces remained unchanged at February.

The index for food has been declining each month since August last year and at February, 1983, general food prices were down to the same levels prevailing in April, 1982.

In spite of an increase in the price of paint in January, which represented a return to normal prices after the discounts offered during the holiday season were removed, no significant changes were recorded in the Housing index. This index showed very little fluctuation from 163 points since November.

The index for transportation has been very stable at around 144 points for 10-month period ended February, 1983.

CSO: 3298/559

TOURISM REGISTERS DECLINE FOR FIRST 2 MONTHS OF 1983

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 16 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

The privately-owned Barbados sugar industry could benefit from a second straight price support mechanism, the "pros and cons" of which are currently being looked at.

In addition Government is anticipating an output of about 120 000 tonnes of sugar next year as part of reaching the goal of 150 000 tonnes by 1985, and has suggested that greater improvement in efficiency be made at the field and factory levels.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Richard Cheltenham who made these announcements spoke to the Press following a tour of the sprawling Bds\$28 million Portvale Factory, the newest in the country.

He used the occasion to discuss some aspects of the 1983 crop, two-thirds of which is already completed, and which is expected to yield about 90 000 tonnes of sugar, a tonnage slightly higher than last year's. So far 60 000

tonnes of sugar have been produced.

Last year Government came to the rescue of the industry with the price support scheme which strengthened the financial position of this sector following a near collapse, including near bankruptcy of some estates.

A soft loan of \$20 million was made available to the industry and the scheme was aimed at bringing about a turn-a-round in the sector.

Queried about a similar support measure, Dr. Cheltenham said:

"The whole question of price support for this year is currently under discussion. As you know there was a price support for the 1982 crop and we are presently looking at the "pros and cons" for price support for 1983."

He said that in another few weeks the outcome of the deliberations on that matter will be made known.

CSO: 3298/559

BRIEFS

WORLD BANK LOAN--Washington, Thursday, (CANA)--The World Bank today approved a US\$10.5 million, 15-year loan for a project to help expand industry and tourism in Barbados. The bank said in a statement the project would provide the newly established industrial credit fund with revenues to be funnelled through commercial banks for loans to industrial and tourism firms. The World Bank loan would carry an interest rate linked to the cost of borrowing and other minor annual fees, the bank said. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 15 Apr 83 p 1]

FIGURES ON JOBLESS--About 15 700 people in Barbados were out of work at the end of last year--3 300 more than at December 31, 1981, according to Government statistics. Unemployment at the end of 1982 stood at 13.6 per cent compared with 10.8 per cent for 1981, the Government Statistical Department said. The labour force at the end of last year totalled 115 000 compared to 114 300 for 1981. The number of individuals not in the labour force stood at 62 500 the same as 1981. The Statistical Department said that its figures were based on a continuous household sample survey. As usual women outnumbered men among the jobless. At December 31, 1982 there were 9 200 women unemployed as against 6 500 men. The corresponding figures in 1981 were 7 800 women and 4 600 men. The number of people categorised as "voluntarily idle" moved from 2 800 in 1981 to 3 900 at the end of last year. The department put the number of people keeping house last year at 21 500 the same as in 1981. The 1982 school population remained at 13 300. There were 900 fewer retired people--19 100--at December 1982 than for 1981. Altogether 64.6 per cent of the total number of adults in Barbados were in the labour force in 1982, compared with 64.8 per cent the previous year. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 15 Apr 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/559

PAPER NOTES CALL FOR CENTRAL AMERICA TALKS, HITS COMMUNISM

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 17 Apr 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] LAST WEEK a prestigious group of top drawer senior people from the United States, Canada and Latin America unwrapped a plan for peace in Central America which they called "Report on the Inter-American Dialogue".

This wide-ranging report is the result of six months of consultations among 24 Americans and Canadians and 25 Latin Americans - all of them now out of government but still influential in their respective countries.

The report calls for immediate and extensive negotiation and compromise among the United States, the Soviet Union, Cuba and major nations of the region, and argues that the basis of unrest in the region is social, economic and political rather than military.

This view appears to coincide with the view of the Belize Government. In

an interview with The New Belize, the Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Rogers had this to say: "We tried (at the Summit in New Delhi) to assess the situation in Central America. The conflicts in this region are not so much between the East and the West but in the exploitation and repression by military regimes in the area. Large social and agrarian reforms are required to bring redress to the problems of Latin America".

The "Report on the Inter-American Dialogue" puts forward as a general proposition the suggestion that to ensure long-term stability in the region the United States should avoid the role of hemispheric policeman, be satisfied with a diminished level of influence for itself and accept an increased and perhaps permanent Soviet presence in the region.

The weakness of this proposal, as in the case for arms reduction and the nuclear ban, is that it depends on the good will of the Soviet Union to live up to its side of whatever agreement may be reached.

But so long as the Soviet Union finds it profitable to promote revolution by setting neighbour against neighbour, Central America will continue to be a hotbed of violence. It is true also, as Mr. Rogers pointed out, that exploitation and repression are the principal causes of conflict, but the Nicaraguan experience has shown that while communist guns are very efficient at killing off people, they are not at all useful in bringing about democratic reform.

CSO: 3298/560

PRIME MINISTER IN TALKS ON SUGAR PRICING, INDUSTRY LOSSES

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 17 Apr 83 pp 1, 16

[Text]

Prime Minister, George Price met on Thursday, April 14 with the Mr Neil M Shaw, Group Managing Director of Tate and Lyle who was accompanied by Mr John Mitchell of Tate and Lyle and Mr Frank Curtis of Belize Sugar Industries.

Their discussions included the low price of sugar on the world market which was creating difficulties for B.S.I. As a result the company is not able to cover, cost of production and has to bear an estimated loss over a 3-year period of about \$18 million.

In an endeavour to overcome the problem BSI is asking the co-operation of the government and the cane farmers association to avert a reduction of its operations by closing down one of its two factories, that is the one in Libertad, Corozal.

At their meeting with the Prime Minister and the Cane Farmers Association, both government and the association undertook to cooperate in finding a way to enable the industry to survive. Negotiations continue over the next few weeks in an effort to find solutions beneficial to all.

This year Belize will produce some 105 thousand tons of sugar. However, the increase in production will hardly compensate for the low price of sugar.

The low price of sugar is affecting all countries in the region. Last week it was announced in Panama that the government had decided to stop the zafra with 6 million quintals (one quintal is 100 lbs.), of sugar cane yet to be cut. Producing at a loss and a reduction

in the US quota are the reasons, according to press reports.

Sugar has been a priority crop in Panama in recent years, with the value of exports jumping from fourth place in 1978 to second in 1981. Panama planned to become a sugar center with the 1981 agreement to establish an international research institute. The severe contraction of the world sugar market, however, finally forced the government to take action.

On March 19, sugar cane workers were pulled off the fields at the four government plantations. One, the

Felipillo refinery was closed down, leaving 3,000 permanent and temporary workers without jobs. The Ministry of Agricultural Development explained that it simply did not pay to harvest the 6M quintals of cane still standing. With the world market price for refined sugar down to US\$6 or US\$7 per quintal, and costs up at US\$18, milling the remaining cane would just increase losses.

Another factor was the Reagan Administration's decision to reduce sugar quotas. Twenty thousand families depend on sugar production for their livelihood in Panama.

CSO: 3298/560

BRIEFS

REPORT ON COOPERATIVES—The number of cooperatives in Belize has now reached 139. This was revealed on Thursday, April 14, by the Registrar of Cooperatives, Mr Norman Augustine. He told the annual staff conference of the Department of Cooperatives and Credit Unions that the department presently has a share capital of about 1 million dollars. He also announced the establishment of a continuous training programme for cooperative officers and called for greater attention to be given to the development of agricultural cooperatives. The two-day conference was opened by Minister of Health, Housing and Cooperatives, Mr Assad Shoman. The Minister spoke on the need for scientific knowledge of the organization of cooperatives, which he said, is necessary for the proper functioning of such a society. He welcomed the creation of a new post in the department of cooperatives of a Cooperative Education Officer. Mr Shoman urged the cooperative officers to utilize all their resources in the development of cooperatives. He encouraged them to be innovative in the effort to better serve the cooperative movement. The staff conference was held at the Department's office in Belize City. One of the highlights was the launching of a 3-year development plan for cooperatives in Belize. [Text] [Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 17 Apr 83 p 15]

EQUIPMENT FOR DEFENSE--Belmopan, Belize, Sunday (CANA)--The Belize military will next month receive two aeroplanes, now under construction at the British firm Lilatus Britten Norman, for use in a proposed air wing of the Defence Force, Government sources said yesterday. They said government had also contracted a British shipbuilding firm, W. A. Souter and Sons, to build two patrol boats for use in a proposed naval wing of the army. The boats are expected to be delivered shortly. Belize, under a threat of invasion from neighbouring Guatemala which has a longstanding claim to its territory, is being protected for the time being by a garrison of British troops. Authoritative sources here said Britain was considering withdrawal of its troops from its former Central American colony. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 25 Apr 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/560

UK OFFERS \$20-MILLION LOAN TO HELP BANANA INDUSTRY

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 16 Apr 83 p 2

[Text]

Dominican Prime Minister Miss Eugenia Charles yesterday signed an EC\$20 million loan agreement with Mr. David Montgomery, Acting British High Commissioner to Dominica.

The signing took place at the offices of the British High Commission in Barbados. It was witnessed by Mr. Kenneth Woolverton, head of the British Development Division in the Caribbean.

Miss Charles said that the money will be used to further develop the island's banana industry through fertilisers and the financing of the agricultural extension and fruit quality service for banana farmers.

It will also support the tree crops projects under which Dominican farmers are encouraged to diversify their range of crops to include mangoes, citrus, fruits, avocados and coffee.

Upcoming projects which will benefit from the loan include the construction of a new school at Delices in the south-east of Dominica and the rehabilitation of a building in the centre of Roseau to house the Courts and Registry.

The Community Development programme will also benefit.

This programme aims at assisting the least privileged sections of the Dominican society through the provision of materials and skilled labour for selfhelp schemes including the construction of feeder roads for the transport of agricultural produce and the administration of a fund to provide loans to assist people in setting up small businesses.

This is the second major capital aid by Britain to Dominica, since the island gained independence. The first was in the form of a EC\$36 million grant.

The loan is interest-free and is repayable over 25 years with a seven-year grace period of no repayments. These are the softest terms under which development aid loans are granted by the British Government.

Mr. Montgomery said yesterday that the loan was a clear expression of Britain's continuing, firm commitment to assist the economic development of Dominica.

CHARLES COMMENTS ON AID FOR COUNTRY'S REHABILITATION

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 17 Apr 83 p 6

[Text]

PRIME Minister of Dominica, Eugenia Charles, said her country could not always depend on aid and her government's goal was to have its own resources, for capital development.

Speaking on matters relating to Dominica's rehabilitation since Hurricane David in 1979, Charles said her country had not succeeded in the areas of marketing, but her government was looking forward to trade with Barbados, Antigua and Trinidad and Tobago.

Charles said Dominica was now able to supply these countries with citrus fruits during the seasons, and she was looking at

the possibility of better packaging to trade on a wide scale.

So said her government was "moving very aggressively" in this area in order to achieve its own resources.

Charles said she was particularly pleased with the aid received from Caribbean countries, Britain, the United States, Belize, France, Venezuela, all CARICOM countries and non-governmental organisations.

She commented that she was very pleased also, with the technical assistance received from Barbados and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United States of the construction of a deep water harbour. She said she also received large loans from the government of Trinidad and Tobago, for housing and marketing.

In the area of security, Charles who is also Minister of Security said, "I do not think we have the same problems which we had two years ago. We have reached a rather high level.

Charles, who spent one week in Barbados, leaves for home today.

CSO: 3298/561

VISITING UK OFFICIAL DISCUSSES BILATERAL RELATIONS

PA270258 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2106 GMT 26 Apr 83

[Text] Guayaquil, Ecuador, 26 Apr (LATIN-REUTER)--Today Cranley Onslow, minister of state of the British Foreign Ministry [title as received], ended an official 3-day visit to Ecuador and left for Chile, the second stop on a South American tour that will end Saturday after he visits Uruguay and Paraguay.

Onslow, who arrived in Quito on Saturday, left for Santiago, Chile, at 1345 (1845 GMT).

During his visit to Quito Onslow met with Foreign Minister Luis Valencia, Deputy Foreign Minister Rodrigo Valdes, the International Affairs Parliamentary Commission and Gary Esparza, acting chairman of the congress.

"The principal objective of the visit to Ecuador was to discuss with the official authorities the bilateral ties between Great Britain and Ecuador, as well as multilateral relations with the countries of the region," said an official communique.

Onslow held a work meeting with Finance Minister Pedor Pinto. Afterward Onslow declared at a news conference: "In Great Britain we have already done and naturally will continue to do everything we can to extend economic aid to Ecuador."

The Ecuadorean Government is now trying to negotiate the refinancing of a portion of its \$6.3 billion foreign debt and to obtain \$1 billion in new credits to ease the foreign exchange shortage.

When he arrived on Saturday, Onslow told journalists that the British banks that have extended credit to Ecuador had not yet made a decision on the refinancing of loans falling due between now and December. "However, it is my understanding that the British banks are ready to give a favorable answer," he said.

Onslow left today for Guayaquil, an Ecuadorean port located 416 km southwest of Quito. He was scheduled to visit the National Fishing Institute's project being implemented with technical assistance from British experts.

VISITING UK OFFICIAL ON RELATIONS WITH AREA

PA260315 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0156 GMT 26 Apr 83

[Text] Quito, 26 Apr (EFE)--Cranley Onslow, minister of state for the British Commonwealth foreign affairs, [title as received], said that the UK is not willing to withdraw its troops from the Malvinas Islands as long as the risk of a "new Argentine invasion" exists.

During a press conference in Quito, Onslow said that Great Britain conditions the reestablishment of relations with Buenos Aires to Argentina's ending the hostilities over the Malvinas Islands.

The UK, he said, wants a peaceful solution to this conflict that, according to him, "has not greatly affected" British relations with other Latin American countries.

According to Onslow "there are other more important matters which the UK would like to discuss with the countries of the region."

Speaking of his stay in Ecuador, Onslow said that he was pleased with the talks he had had with the foreign and deputy foreign ministers and that he was pleased to have found "to a great extent, a mutual understanding."

Regarding his talks with the finance minister, Onslow said that the UK has helped and will continue helping Ecuador in renegotiating its foreign debt with the foreign private banks and in seeking a solution to its economic crisis.

Onslow believes that future British investments in Ecuador, such as in oil in which the government is interested, will be feasible "once trust in the country's economic situation is reestablished" and the exact term on which the new enterprises would operate are known.

In concluding, Onslow congratulated the Ecuadorean Government and people for consolidating the democratic regime during a time of great economic difficulties. He wished them much success in the future.

CSO: 3348/370

HEADS OF STATE RESPOND TO HURTADO PROPOSAL

PA171821 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] So far, the presidents of 14 Latin American countries--Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela--have responded in writing to President Oswaldo Hurtado's proposal that a plan for joint action be developed to solve the crisis that all of the region's countries are currently undergoing.

On 13 February, President Hurtado sent individual messages to SELA and ELCA Urging those regional organizations to formulate, as an initial joint action, a number of measures that could possibly be adopted by Latin America to confront the international crisis. These measures would subsequently be submitted for consideration to all governments in the region.

The two organizations accepted the request. It is hoped that a document containing the proposed measures will be ready by mid-May.

President Hurtado's proposal was described as historic by several Latin American heads of state, since it points out the only viable course to take in facing the current catastrophe.

President Hurtado reiterated his proposal to the Latin American group at the United Nations during his recent trip to the United States.

CSO: 3348/370

HONDURAN CONSUL ISSUES STATEMENT ON EMBASSY TAKEOVER

PA262213 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2003 GMT 26 Apr 83

[Text] At approximately 1100 today the Ruminahui Front of Solidarity with Central America and the Caribbean peacefully occupied the Honduran Embassy in our country. Some 25 people are inside the diplomatic offices awaiting an answer to their five demands. The group is asking that the Ecuadorean Government publicly support the peace initiative of the Contadora group, that Ecuador become a member of this group, that the Salvadoran FDR be recognized as a belligerent force, that the government recall the Ecuadorean ambassador from Guatemala and that Ecuador express its solidarity with Nicaragua.

The members of the Ruminahui Front inside the diplomatic offices told Cadena Ecuador Radio why they have occupied the mission. They added that names had been suggested to form a mediating committee. The committee would include Julio Vallejo, former Ecuadorean foreign minister; (Alejandro Carrion), president of the parliament's International Affairs Commission; (Nela Martinez), a writer; (Elsie Monge), president of the Ecumenical Commission for Human Rights; and Marcelo Cevallos, president of the National Union of Journalists.

Asked by Cadena Ecuador Radio about his participation on this committee, former Foreign Minister Julip Prado Vallejo said that he is willing to participate in the negotiations. He added that anything that can be done to achieve piece in Central America is very important.

At approximately 1400 Honduran Ambassador (Victoria Buchard de Castellon) [name and title as heard] arrived at the embassy. She was surprised by the occupation but made no further comment on the incident.

Juan Carlos Perez, Honduran consul to Ecuador, told Cadena Ecuador Radio that the atmosphere in the embassy is calm and he and the members of the diplomatic staff had been treated well by the Ruminahui Front members. Also inside the embassy are (Elba de Cordova), the Honduran cultural attache, and (Noemi Avila Sabala), third secretary for the embassy.

It is now 1505 and we are once again in contact with the Honduran Embassy that was occupied this morning by the so-called Ruminahui Front which has made various demands of the government. The occupiers are demanding that the

government make a public statement in support of the Contadora group's mediation effort regarding the Central American situation. We have a member of the Ruminahui Front on the telephone. The member has a statement issued by the Honduran Embassy.

[Begin telephone relay] [Question] Miss, could you please tell us what the letter says?

[Answer] Here is the communique. To the Ecuadorean President and authorities: I am pleased to address myself to you at this time to inform you that today at 1130 the offices of this diplomatic mission were peacefully occupied by a group of citizens of this country made up of women, peasant women, women workers, workers and students in solidarity with peace in Central America.

I also wish to say that the group has respected the physical integrity of the embassy staff who are inside the offices. Sir, hello, hello. [break in the telephone relay station commentator is heard asking the lady to continue the reading] We ask the communications media to come here to prevent violent activities by the state. Now I will continue reading the communique issued by the Honduran Consul.

He adds: I also wish to say that the group has respected the physical integrity of the embassy staff who are inside the office and therefore, I respectfully request that there be no violence by the authorities. Once the group's demands have been heard they will leave the offices at a determined time.

Thank you for observing [2-second break in transmission] to my message, sincerely, [signed] Juan Pablo Perez Cadalso, first secretary and Honduran consul to Ecuador.

We ask that the media and the people of Ecuador come to the embassy and by their presence prevent any violent intervention. Thank you.

[Question] Miss, what we would like to ask you and from what we understand from the message issued by the Honduran diplomat is whether you have reached some agreement as to when you will leave the diplomatic offices? When would this be?

[Answer] We are waiting for the mediation committee to arrive. After this we will immediately advise you.

[Question] Thank you for your statement; thank you, you were very kind. [end relay]

You have just heard the message issued by the Honduran diplomatic delegation. The occupation of the embassy, located north of Quito, continues. We will be back with more information at any moment.

CSO: 3348/370

PRESIDENT APPROVES AMENDMENTS TO ELECTORAL LAW

PA212328 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] The first electoral round to choose the president, vice president, members of the Chamber of Representatives, provincial prefects, mayors, councillors and councilmen will definitely take place on the last Sunday of January 1984. The second round to elect a president and vice president will take place on the first Sunday of May 1984 given that the amendments to the electoral law, which were approved by the plenary, have been ratified by President Oswaldo Hurtado.

However, President Hurtado made some remarks concerning the legislative bill, including Article 11, which states that the members of the Chamber of Representatives will also be elected during the first round.

The election of legislators during the first round might allow voters to express their opinion with an even greater independence but it may also eventually prevent the president from having an adequate majority at the national Chamber of Representatives. Such a majority is necessary to carry out government tasks, especially now when the national economy is experiencing difficulties and it is necessary to strengthen presidential authority.

CSO: 3348/370

BRIEFS

DEMONSTRATORS SUPPORT RUMINAUI FRONT--We have learned that there is a demonstration around the Legislative Palace. The demonstrators are also issuing proclamations regarding the Ruminahui Front occupation of the Honduran Embassy. As everyone knows, the leaders of the Ruminahui Front have demanded that the government issue a statement in support of the negotiations by the so-called Contadora group and another statement on the Central American situation. [Text] [Felix Narvaez report] [PA262351 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Apr 83]

FOREIGN DEBT NEGOTIATIONS--A new round of negotiations will begin in New York next Thursday between an Ecuadorean commission and the IMF to work out details on refinancing the country's foreign debt. Monetary Board President Jose Antonio Correa left for New York yesterday. Finance Minister Pedro Pinto and Central Bank Manager Abelardo Pachano will leave next Wednesday. In its most recent session, the Monetary Board decided to negotiate the refinancing of the country's public and private debt, totalling \$2,481,000,000, jointly. Within these negotiations, the international banks will grant Ecuador new loans amounting to about \$450 million. The IMF has also been asked to supply a stand-by loan of \$171 million. These funds will be issued to restore the country's international monetary reserves, which are currently at a critical level. [Text] [PA261218 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Apr 83]

NICARAGUAN MINISTER ON LIBYAN ARMS--Quito, 27 Apr (EFE)--Nicaraguan Planning Minister Henry Ruiz admitted today in Quito that his government is receiving Libyan support, and said that Nicaragua will accept "the help of any country that understands our problems." Commander Ruiz, who is a member of the FSLN National Directorate, made the statement as he was leaving the Presidential Palace, where he met with Ecuadorean President Osvaldo Hurtado for 45 minutes. The Nicaraguan politician, speaking on the discovery in Brazil of Libyan arms destined for his government, said that his country "as a sovereign nation" has "multifaceted understandings" with other countries, including understandings of a military nature. The Sandinist commander denied the existence of Soviet influence or intervention in Nicaragua. [Excerpt] [PA290407 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1811 GMT 27 Apr 83]

DEPLORABLE PRISON CONDITIONS HIT IN LETTER TO 'GUARDIAN'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Apr 83 p 8

[Letter to the Editor]

[Text]

THE EDITOR: We are a genuine group in Grenada with a sense of love, justice, equality and humanity.

We spoke to a military officer and he reported:

Prisoners living in an underground cell with a 100-watt bulb lighting day and night. Lives have been lost: Stechan Phillips, Ralph Thompson, Glen Simon, Joseph Charles, Stanislaus brothers who were murdered by the armed forces.

Unsolved death of the manager of B.B.C. beach club in Grand Anse. Ralph Thompson reported before his death of his horrors in the Fort, 30 detainees were put into three cells on the third night, two officers of the army opened the cells and ordered the detainees to hurry into the rain.

They were sleeping, so they hesitated because of their health. The soldiers fired shots around them. They hurried out. Men were bitten by centipedes and bees.

Kenneth Budhlalls was tortured and shocked by an electrical instrument.

Layne Phillips is struggling to survive the few days of his life in Richmond Hill Prison.

Grace Augustine was sexually assaulted by a soldier. No steps have been taken. There are many more incidents too numerous to mention.

We are dissatisfied with Mr. Chambers's attitude in the Grenada situation. The Trinidad Government is the nearest neigh-

bour. He is conscious of the repressive situation that exists.

We ask him to speak up on humanitarian grounds in order to stop the practices of the Bishop Government.

We will express our views to the whole Caribbean and join hands with all news media and active organisations throughout the world.

GRENADA LIBERATION
ORGANISATION
St George's

BRIEFS

OVERSEAS TOURISM OFFICES--St. George's, Grenada, Friday (CANA)--Grenada's Tourism Minister, Lyden Ramdhanny, has announced plans by the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) to set up tourism offices in Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. Mr. Ramdhanny said that the government, which has embarked on a major tourism promotion drive for the opening of its international airport next year, saw Trinidad and Tobago as a key market for Grenada. He told reporters here that in terms of the composition of the oil-rich republic, as well as its cultural and historic links with Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago has great potential for tourism for Grenada. The minister said that the tourism office to be set up by the Grenada Government in Venezuela would serve South and Central America. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 23 Apr 83 p 3]

AID FROM CANADA--The Grenada Chamber of Commerce has been the first chamber in the Caribbean to receive funds from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Canadian Association for Latin America (CALA) through the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC). In the March/April issue of CAIC's "Calling the Caribbean," the newsletters said that CALA approved the sum of \$17,600 to help the Grenada chamber finance the cost for the first year of publishing a monthly newsletter. CAIC on request will assist the Grenada Chamber in the content, layout, advertising and other aspects of the preparation and putting together of the newsletter, said the CAIC's newsletter. The grant has been provided under the CALA/CAIC programme of cooperation which CIDA has agreed to finance under its Caricom industrial co-operation programme. Phase one of the CALA/CAIC programme of co-operation is national chamber support which is designed to enhance the ability of chambers in the region to improve the quality of services they offer to members and to manage their affairs effectively. Phase two of the programme is investment project promotion which provides for CAIC and CALA to undertake with funding from CIDA an active programme to promote investment. According to the CAIC's newsletter, the first quarterly advance of \$4,250 was made to Richard Menezes, president of the Grenada chamber. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Apr 83 p 4]

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION URGES EASED FOOD IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 25 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

GEORGETOWN Guyana Sunday (CANA) — The Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA) today called on the authorities to ease restriction on importing foodstuff, saying the curbs had worsened the country's malnutrition problems.

In a statement issued in Georgetown, the association said: "We wish to add our voice to that of the international consultant, doctors, nutritionists, economists, and the Guyana Council of Churches who have advised the government of benefits to be had from importing essential foodstuffs.

"In addition to the arguments advanced by these experts of the nutritional and economic benefits, we would argue that the present level of unavailability of foodstuffs infringes the constitutional requirement referred to above.

"In the light of this, we call on the government to either provide immediately adequate supplies of foodstuffs or permit charitable and religious bodies which have access to gifts of essential foods, especially flour, milk and cheese, to import and distribute them.

"Until such supplies are available we advise the law enforcement agencies to reconsider their campaign against bakers, vendors and hucksters who, however unsatisfactorily, are meeting an urgent need."

The association said Guyana now had "a worse nutritional situation than 30 years ago," with an "abnormal number of deaths in public institutions which have been related to nutritional deficiencies." It said the deaths had occurred in places including the Georgetown Prisons, the Public Hospital, the Berbice Mental Hospital and the Mahaica Hospital.

Last year the Guyana Government clamped down on a range of imports, including foodstuff, saying it was short of foreign exchange. The Government has been encouraging Guyanese to use local substitutes.

The GHRA said the police and the magistracy were involved "in a campaign of extraordinary zeal against people trading in foodstuffs which have been restricted or prohibited entry into the country, and for price control violations."

"We recognise that in a normal situation when an adequate supply and variety of foodstuffs are available, the government may be justified in restricting some imports for economic reasons. We

question, however, whether we are living in a normal situation," the association added.

"To the extent that there is no commercial substitute for bread and roti (pastry) made from wheat flour, the vigorous application of laws against its use is creating an unusual and cruel hardship on the mass of the population.

"It must be recognised that the legal technicalities of "possession of uncustomed goods and "selling above the control price" in these circumstances run the risk of promoting a political strategy rather than justice.

"To the extent that everyone buys and eats these "banned" goods, the law is making criminals of us all. Those, mainly the poor, who cannot pay the prices of the "parallel" economy are providing the statistics of malnutrition," the GHRA remarked.

"It is humiliating to note that 30 years ago, the colonial report 1953 stated that a survey of school-children on the coastlands showed that 63.9 per cent were free of any signs of malnutrition or deficiency, 22.9 per cent showed slight signs, 7.0 per cent moderate degree of malnutrition and 1.1 per cent showed advanced signs.

"It went on to state "arrangements were made for necessitous children suffering from nutrition defects to be provided with school meals and, in cases of severe defects, vitamins, cod liver oil and medicines were supplied to the schools."

"We now have a worse nutritional situation than 30 years ago and nothing like the programme outlined above to deal with it. This contention is supported by the abnormal number of deaths in public institutions which have been related to nutritional deficiencies."

The GHRA said the system of distributing foodstuff supplies primarily through government workplaces was not a substitute for adequate supplies.

TEXT OF BURNHAM INTERVIEW WITH 'CANA' CORRESPONDENT

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Apr 83 p 4

[Date and place of interview not given]

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Sunday (CANA) — President Forbes Burnham, just past his 30th anniversary of entering politics, has come out against what he says are continuing foreign efforts to entice Guyana into changing its social ideological path.

In a brief interview with CANA's Georgetown correspondent Edwin Ali, the 60-year-old People's National Congress (PNC) leader said he expected the United States in particular to maintain pressure on the Government here to adopt different economic policies.

But he added: "We shall overcome. You see, the coalition of forces must change..."

The veteran Caribbean leader who became head of Government in 1964, 11 years after he first served in the administration of current Opposition Leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan, also voiced concern about what he said was the slowness with which Guyanese reacted to new policies or new approaches, but indicated he thought the storm of protest caused by his ban on a range of food imports at a time of foreign exchange difficulties would eventually blow over.

He said one of his hopes was that Guyana would become self-sufficient in a number of areas including food production and housing.

The Guyanese leader brushed aside the campaigning of the Opposition, saying the PPP had caused a diversion of energies "which could be better spent in the development of the country."

Following is the text of the interview:

Ali: Comrade leader, in looking back at your 30 years as a parliamentarian, what would you single out as your greatest achievement?

Burnham: I would say the winning of independence for Guyana in 1966, because, if you recall, the main opposition party the People's Progressive Party was against independence and the united force with whom we were in coalition only agreed to independence because they couldn't do better and I always explain to you that it is impossible to do anything with the economy or social structure unless you have independence.

Ali: What would you say was your greatest challenge over this period?

Burnham: I would say it was...the nationalisation of DEMBA (Demerara Bauxite Company), the subsidiary of ALCAN (Aluminium Company of Canada). ALCAN was determined not to hand over, or rather if it was to hand over, it should only be a formal handover, with they retaining the control, and what a lot of people did not

recognise was that the peoples progressive party fought tooth and nail to prevent us... we required a compulsory acquisition of two-thirds majority which we did not have, and the People's Progressive Party leadership run a number of things out of us — an increased allowance for the Leader of the Opposition, more liberal travelling allowances, office rent and office allowances for staff in the office and things like that. Many, many things: They fought tooth and nail. They eventually did support us and we did manage to carry it through. That was the greatest challenge and I also think one of the greatest achievements is that it marked the first step towards a domestication of our economy and a fulfilment of a promise...that Guyanese should own and control their natural resources.

Ali: Are you convinced about the correctness of this?

Burnham: I would say yes and I would say if I had to do it over again, I would do it again. It should entail, has entailed and continues to entail a great deal of opposition, partly internal but primarily external. That's my policy which leads to true independence, politically and economically, and those who have controlled countries like Guyana directly and indirectly in the past would accept that or they can call it off.

Ali: Are there any particular disappointments you would care to speak about?

Burnham: Well, the main disappointment that I have found during the period is what I call sometimes the slowness with which people react to a new policy or a new approach. And I suppose, in the final analysis, it is primarily mindful of party support, Government support, not sort of sensitising the populace in advance but sometimes it isn't easy to sensitise fully. I think, for instance, of things like the unwillingness of people to use local products. In many instances. You will recall, for instance, when we banned the importation of preserved fruits...now we use our own preserved fruits and, in fact, export to places as far as the German Democratic Republic. Here is the same problem, in some circles with wheat flour, where reaction has been slow in some areas and very encouraging in others. There was a similar slow reaction when we said that we would no longer import white potatoes, but use our starch and vegetables. That has subsided to a large extent and what is significant is that the farmers who produce all starch and vegetables are much better off.

Ali: During this period of three decades or so, what has been your greatest concern or worry?

Burnham: The maintenance of true independence. You see, on the international scene today, you do get sometimes countries purporting to be friendly and willing to give aid...but basically there is always or on most occasions they'd like to limit your freedom of action. They'd like you to support causes which are gut-issues with them, regardless of your own convictions and your national interests. Without calling names, it would be interesting for you to learn that every August, the representatives of certain big countries in Guyana call on our Foreign Minister to tell him what are

the gut-issues for them and it doesn't really matter to them what are the gut-issues for Guyana. In those cases, of course there are always rosy carrots that are exposed to our view, but we have been able to stand up to this, not without difficulty, and in many cases having to do without aid and assistance they would have given otherwise. But I think that independence and ability to stand on your own are more important things than accepting gifts. In any case, except in a few cases, aid is business. You have to repay the aid....

Ali: What do you hope to achieve eventually with this nation?

Burnham: I hope that we would become, simply, a self-reliant nation, because we have got the resources and the potential to feed ourselves, we have got the potential to house ourselves...we have a large number of resources which not only can contribute to those three objectives but also provide us with exportable products and also form the basis for developing a really modern industrial sector. Of course, that is looking at it merely from a material or economic side. Now in terms of the social side, hope that we shall be able to raise the level of life of the average Guyanese and involve the masses in decision-making of an equitable distribution of wealth within our production, remove discrimination of all sorts, I hope and expect and think it is possible, that we would eventually be able to send out our system of socialism.

Ali: What obstacles do you see in the way of making such progress?

Burnham: Well, there are two aspects...the old brigade or those who had it better than the rest, always tend to feel that to remove their privileges or to give the rest of the population what they enjoy, means a loss by them of status and influence...and the situation can be exacerbated by the political rascality of these people. They'll come out

with a popular proposal, not because they expect or want it to be carried out but because they feel they would leave the people feeling here is something we want to get or that is ours...but then you have the external obstacles. The mere attempt to set up the kind of society we are aiming at in Guyana represents a non-capitalist road to development with emphasis on ordinary people, fixing certain minimum conditions and benefits for every man all means that we are ideologically on a different plain from those who dominate in this area, and we run the risk of being considered the leaders in a movement to undermine the old system and old regime. No one readily gives up what he considers his right, his divine right. In consequence, we meet opposition sometimes...sometimes it is subtle, sometimes for instance we are negotiating an external loan from an international agency and as part of the arrangement, we have a consultant to advise us on particular points, but instead of advising us only on those points, they go on now to advise us on the direction we should take, the political line we should adopt, and telling us whether it should be stateowned or privately-owned, and thing of that sort. That is subtle. But then you get the whole front...I think it was in 1981 when the United States actually opposed an agricultural loan to be given by the IADB (Inter-American Development Bank) to Guyana...a loan that was approved in principle and accepted by the institution. And the reason given by the United States representative on the Board of Directors was that Guyana must change its course...I think we came out stronger of that and more respected internationally. And they have other techniques: They say we are in breach of human rights, though there is no political prisoner in Guyana, though in every case there is a trial. Many of our political opponents who have

been charged...have been acquitted. The general idea is to hold us up to ridicule and to put pressure on us. We shall overcome: you see, the coalition of forces must change.

Ali: For 1983, Mr. President, what mechanisms do you propose implementing to ensure the success of our nation?

Burnham: One of the mechanisms...identified is the regional (governmental) system. For the simple reason the regional system gives the opportunity for direct and meaningful participation based on understanding for the common man, and one finds that there is no question of handing down something...it's a question of involving people at the very lowest level that is what we call the grassroot level that is one thing that I have great faith in...there are other administrative steps that to be taken, incentives devised, and the process of education. You know, for instance...we have got to get over to our people that many of the things we thought were highly nutritious because you were told so by advertisements which we imported are for practical purposes no foods and not none-tenth as good as they are advertised to be, and that we have here more nutritious foods and have the

advantage of being able to take them fresh.

Ali: Mr. President, what legislation approved by the Parliament in your lifetime would you consider to be the most significant?

Burnham: Of course, the new Constitution which was passed and promulgated in 1980, because that Constitution represents a revolutionary change from the conventional Westminster-type that all ex-British colonies have inherited, and the entrenchment of new economic and social rights which were never entrenched before.

Ali: What about the political opposition? Do you see any challenge from any or all of the parties?

Burnham: A political opposition in any country does present a challenge, but if I'm to give a prophecy or prognosis, our opposition present none. They however do cause you to divert energies which could be better spent in the development of the country. The PPP is virtually a spent force. It is a self-proclaimed Marxist-Leninist party, but yet it enters into coalition with, I would say, with parties which it itself describes as capitalist, or capitalist agents. It spends its time in criticisms and objecting to reforms which are...socialist and it is very interesting now (to see what is happening with the party, and

the VLD (vanguard for liberation and democracy) and the WPA (Working People's Alliance). It is an unlikely case of those three mismatched groups to be annihilated by its so-called partners of view. Members of the PPP are beginning to understand political opposition, but this does not offer a challenge in terms of an alternative. It offers some difficulty in stirring up problems from time to time and we have been able to handle them and we expect to be able to handle them, so long as these political groups continue to exist in present form.

Ali: What about the workers of Guyana? Are you satisfied they have played their role in the developmental process?

Burnham: As a group, yes, though there have been several instances where there has been not enough commitment and therefore production has lagged, there have been cases where not enough imagination and initiative have been displayed, and we have failed to achieve our...(goals) as a result of our economy it would include management, and non-management workers...

Ali: Not in the near future. I think eventually there should be and there will be a political federation of the states that make up CARICOM.

POLICE OFFICERS FIRST OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO OK PAY PLAN

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

THE FIRST break-through in the current negotiations between the Government and its employees over improvements in salaries and fringe benefits came yesterday with the acceptance of the new Pay Plan by senior Police Officers.

The Gazetted Officers, ranging upwards from the level of Assistant Superintendent, accepted the Government's offer at a meeting with the Minister of the Public Service, the Hon. J. A. G. Smith.

Mr. Smith said that he was looking forward to further break-throughs in the negotiations this week as he will be meeting with several of the public-sector groups involved.

Today, he is scheduled to meet with representatives of the Police Federation, which represents policemen up to the rank of Inspector, as well as the executive of the Jamaica Civil Service Association which represents over 20,000 Civil Servants who went on a three-day strike last week in protest against the terms of the offer.

The meeting with the Civil Servants fulfils the undertaking given by the Minister last week Wednesday to meet the association as soon as normality returned to the Civil Service following last week's strike.

Mr. Smith met the medical technologists, represented by UTASP, and the air traffic controllers, represented by the Jamaica Air Traffic Controllers Association, yesterday. These groups are to discuss the offer and reply to the Minister.

On Monday, the Minister met representatives of the five major trade unions — BITU, NWU, TUC, JUPOPE and JALGO. The Gleaner understands that the Minister will meet these unions again tomorrow. However, a strike called by JALGO last week to support demands for settlement of its claims is still having negative repercussions in the Local Government sector.

Some firemen employed by the KSAC staged a sick-out yesterday protesting against the late payment of their salaries which were due on Monday.

However, the late payment was expected because workers in the KSAC's City Treasury Department, which is responsible for salaries and wages, were on strike up to Friday and no bills were made up.

Tomorrow, Mr. Smith is scheduled to meet representatives of the Jamaica Teachers Association (JTA) and the Junior Doctors Association (JDA).

However, the Minister has said that he will not meet with groups that are involved in industrial action and both the JTA and the JDA members are currently on a work-to-rule.

The Government's offer to the employees is for a new Pay Plan which will be put into effect this year, covering certain areas of the public sector including technical, middle management and senior management levels with pay increases over the next two years ranging from \$1,900 per annum to \$10,878 per annum, or 15.5% and 45.1%.

The other workers would receive a carrying-on allowance of \$15 per week from July 1, 1983 and a further \$15 per week from July 1, 1984. They will be included in the plan two years time.

These proposals, which Mr. Smith said are aimed at breaking the current pay cycle under which all Government employees are due increases at the same time, replaced an earlier offer of an across-the-board increase of 12½% and 13½%, which was rejected by the employees. The new offer represents a \$5-million increase over the first offer as well as a further \$4-million to ensure that no employee gets less than the 12½% which was originally offered.

CSO: 3298/565

LABOR SCENE REMAINS IN TURMOIL AS CIVIL SERVANTS RETURN

Work-to-Rule Actions

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Apr 83 pp 1, 18

[Text]

AS THE three-day strike by Civil Servants ended yesterday morning, junior doctors in the Government service began a work-to-rule that has curtailed services in some out-patient clinics, and a strike by Local Government workers spread to the City Treasury in Kingston, creating the possibility of no wages being paid today to KSAC weekly-paid workers.

The Civil Servants resumed work at their normal starting times at the various Ministries and Departments in response to the direction of the Jamaica Civil Service Association on Wednesday night. The JCSA's president, Mr. Sam Stewart, instructed the resumption following an undertaking from the Minister of Labour and the Public Service, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, to resume the negotiations after normality has returned to the service.

Teachers represented by the Jamaica Teachers' Association said that they are still on their work-to-rule and a demonstration called by JALGO involving several levels of staff in Local Government spread to Kingston yesterday affecting operations in the City Treasurer's Department.

The junior doctors' work-to-rule caused both the Kingston Public Hospital and the Bustamante Hospital for Children to curtail their out-patient services, while the University Hospital, which was affected to a much lesser extent, had to reduce services in the casualty department to emergencies only.

A SPOKESMAN for the KPH said that the hospital had curtailed planned operations, but emergency cases would continue to receive attention.

A spokesman for the Bustamante Hospital said that the hospital was looking after the patients already admitted, as well as new emergency cases; but the specialist clinics had their services curtailed. The spokesman said that the junior doctors had worked out a rota system which would enable the hospital to continue operating with the emphasis on emergency cases.

At the University Hospital of the West Indies, a spokesman said that the Casualty Department was reduced to emergency cases only, but as far as the already-admitted patients were concerned these were being attended to normally, as the hospital had asked the doctors and consultants to work out the best strategy they could to keep the service going.

"We are trying to maintain the services and I think we are in a better position than the other hospitals like the KPH because we have more consultants," the spokesman said.

In a release yesterday, the Junior Doctors Association said their action, which is in support of demands for increased overtime payments, has received the full support of its members island-wide. The association said it is urging the Minister of the Public Service to meet with them at an early date for negotiations on their outstanding claims.

THE STRIKE by the Local Government workers, represented by JALGO, which is in support of their wage claims, has been affecting the Spanish Town Infirmary, the Roads and Works Department and the Spanish Town Market since yesterday, the Gleaner St. Catherine Reporter stated.

The report said that the Infirmary staff are only providing breakfast for the inmates. The Parish Council has had to obtain the other meals for the day for the patients from private sources. The market staff are said to be on a go-slow.

The City Treasurer's Department of the KSAC is on strike and a spokesman for the Corporation said that no bills were being processed which would mean that weekly paid employees would not be paid today.

The Gleaner understands that this situation led to problems within the Public Cleansing Department yesterday as those workers were not able to receive their wages because of the work stoppage in the City Treasurer's Department.

Employees at the office of the Inspector of Poor and certain ancillary workers in the Fire Service are also involved. The workers are demanding a meeting at the Ministry of Labour before resuming.

In a release yesterday, the Jamaica Teachers Association said that its negotiating team met with the Minister of the Public Service, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith in the morning, and reached agreement on new fringe benefits and further consideration is to be given to other fringe benefit items by a committee which will meet on Monday.

According to the release the Minister said that the Prime Minister was committed to improving significantly the offer to trained teachers and that the exact amount of the offer to them was still being finalised and would be made known to them at the next meeting on Thursday.

However, the teachers are continuing their work-to-rule and the J.T.A. Executive will meet on April 29 to review the situation.

City Clerks' Strike

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Apr 83 p 19

[Text]

Employees of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation KSAC, were not paid yesterday because of the strike by clerks in the City Treasurer's Department.

The City Treasurer's Department are among the few areas in the Corporate Area affected by the strike called by the Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers JALGO to support its demand for an

early meeting on claims for pay and fringe benefits improvements for Local Government workers.

The strike has seriously affected several Parish Council institutions in the rural areas, but only the City Treasurer's Department, the Inspectorate of Poor and certain sections of the Fire Brigade have been affected in the Corporate Area. However, because of the stoppage by the City Treasurer's em-

ployees the Corporation is unable to pay its employees. The action started on Wednesday.

The Town Clerk, Mr. J.J. Clarke, said that the KSAC would not be able to pay the workers until the City Treasurer's Department returns to normality. Both weekly and monthly paid workers are affected.

JALGO has said that it

will not call off the strike until the Ministry of the Public Service sets a meeting date to start negotiating its claims. The Gleaner understands that a break in the stalemate is expected on Monday.

In the meantime, the Junior Doctors are continuing their work-to-rule for improved overtime arrangements.

The action has curtailed out-patient services at all major hospitals and clinics, and Casualty Departments have been reduced to emergency-only service.

Medical Officers (Health) in a release yesterday signed by Dr. Peter Figueroa, said that they too have rejected the Government's offers to them and said that they supported more reasonable overtime payment to the Junior Doctors.

The Jamaica Teachers Association's executives were meeting up to press time last night to discuss the situation in the schools caused by their work-to-rule for more pay and better working conditions. Their action is affecting extra-curricular activities, including the Jamaica 21 celebrations.

CSO: 3298/564

BUDGET OF \$6.9 MILLION FOR AGRICULTURAL INCENTIVES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Apr 83 p 17

[Text] A provision of \$6,900,000 for production incentives to small farmers to enable them to expand food production and obtain socially desirable amenities, is the highest allocation of the Capital Budget of \$76,080,600 set aside for the Ministry of Agriculture, in the 1983-84 Estimates of Expenditure.

Agricultural marketing development comes next with an allocation of \$6,800,000. The Estimates state: "This is a six-year project to improve the living standards of farmers, consumers and market intermediaries, by the establishment of a Marketing Division in the Ministry of Agriculture, the construction of wholesale markets and assembling and grading stations and personnel in the marketing services. The project is in its third year and is funded by the Government of Jamaica and US/AID. The total project training cost is estimated at \$52,784,000."

In Capital Expenditure, the Ministry of Agriculture's sum ranks second only to the Ministry of Finance's \$669,794,000, and is followed by the Ministry of Housing which gets \$75,901,300. On the Recurrent side of the Estimates the Agriculture Ministry's allocation is seventh, with \$49,295,000.

Livestock Research is allocated \$800,000 to finance livestock research projects, involving pasture management, animal nutrition, crossbreeding and animal husbandry in beef and dairy cattle at Bodles, Grove Place, Montpelier and the Shettlewood Dairy Complex.

Crop Research absorbs \$430,000 and represents the Government's contribution to the Banana Company of Jamaica for banana research and development. The Banana Company is also ear-marked \$4,000,000 to finance 50 per cent of its expenditure in respect of the spraying of bananas for farmers island-wide, in the Banana Leaf Spot Control Programme.

The All-island Banana Growers Association also receives a grant of \$500,000 to finance its operating expenses in its drive to provide services aimed at assisting farmers to improve the quality of bananas and increase productivity.

In continuation of the effort to eradicate the Coffee Berry Borer, \$3,150,000 has been provided in the Capital budget. This project is now administered by the Coffee Industry Board.

Soil Conservation works on Government lands and special areas throughout the island has been set down for \$2 million, and is aimed at reducing soil loss and increasing productivity.

In order to continue a long-term programme of forest plantations in order to satisfy the nation's future demand for timber and wood products, there is a provision of \$2 million.

To aid production of nursery plants and other materials for food and tree crops, there is a provision of \$2 million.

To aid production under the broad heading "Rural Development", gets a total of \$10 million, divided as follows: Development of Land Settlements \$5 million; Temporary Agricultural Aides \$3,400,000; Aided Self Help Scheme \$1,600,000.

Rural farm credit is allocated \$2,500,000 to finance the first year of a four-year project to be jointly financed by the International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD), the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Jamaica. It is explained in the Estimates that the purpose of the project is to establish a revolving credit fund to serve the production credit needs of the small farmers, who are mainly involved in cultivating basic foods on farms ranging from two to ten acres. The total project is estimated to cost \$44,500,000. This programme is separate from the Credit and Incentives Programme.

There is also a sum of \$5,400,000 to accommodate expenditure on a "Jamaica Agricultural Research" to provide the institutional framework and physical facilities necessary for conducting research work in livestock, crops and plant protection. This includes the building of a complex at Montpelier and the expansion of the Bodles Station. This is the fifth year of the project estimated to cost \$16,741,000 and is jointly funded by the IADB and the Government of Jamaica.

Agricultural Planning will absorb \$2,700,000 to develop the institutional capabilities of the Ministry through training based on needs and analysis, as well as a systematic approach to data collection and management. This is a five-year plan in its final year with technical assistance, equipment and training provided by USAID. The total cost of the project is \$9,507,000.

The Second Integrated Rural Development Project and the Banana Plantation Project are estimated to cost \$5 million and \$2,900,000 respectively. The Banana Plantation Project's provision is designed to continue the establishment of 1,100 acres of "pure stand" bananas in order to improve the quality and quantity for the export market. This project is jointly financed by the Government of Jamaica and the European Development Fund (EDF). The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$7,867,000.

The Inland Fisheries project--sponsored jointly by the Government of Jamaica and USAID--is to continue. \$2,300,000 has been provided in the Estimates of Expenditure for this purpose. The four-year project, now in its third year,

is estimated to cost \$16 million, and aims at an improvement in nutrition, an increase in employment and income, and reduction in foreign exchange expenditure on the importation of fish. The project also provides assistance in design and construction of pounds, stocking, reaping and co-ordination of marketing and training of farmers.

A sum of \$5 million is also provided for the construction of rural markets, and \$400,000 is earmarked for the development of yam storage and marketing in order to reduce the post-harvest losses in yam, by improving shelf life and distribution outlets for the crop through the provision of curing, packaging, and storing facilities at Coleyville in Christiana. This project which was scheduled for two years has been extended by an additional year and is jointly financed by the Government of Jamaica and the Food and Agricultural Organisation at a total cost of \$1,100,000.

CSO: 3298/564

SHELL EARMARKS FUNDS FOR SOCIAL PROJECTS TO IMPROVE IMAGE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 Apr 83 p 2

[Text]

Shell Company West Indies Limited celebrates its 60th anniversary in Jamaica this year and to mark the event, which coincides with Jamaica's 21st independence anniversary celebrations, the company has announced a number of plans which will cost some \$3 to 4 million to reflect the "corporate concern" of the company.

The plans, aimed at "re-confirming the company's commitment to the social and economic development" of the country, were announced on Wednesday by Shell's managing director, Mr. Howard Hamilton, at a media luncheon sponsored by Shell at the Terra Nova Hotel.

The main areas of focus will be energy, road safety, education, sports and entertainment.

For energy, the company will be offering a scholarship for a post-graduate degree in energy or energy related discipline, a skill which is seriously needed in Jamaica, Mr. Hamilton said. A panel of academics functioning in the field of energy development, drawn from the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the College of Arts Science and Technology (CAST), are to set the criteria for the scholarship and also to select the successful candidate.

The company also plans a major energy exposition towards the end of the year designed to "inform and excite" Jamaicans of all ages on the subject of energy and at the same time the company will mount a technical energy symposium at which both local and international experts in energy development will exchange papers and ideas.

"The symposium has been pitched at the technical level in order to increase the reservoir of research and development now known available in Jamaica," Mr. Hamilton said, adding that the company had secured the world-wide resources of Shell International to ensure that the symposium would be a successful effort.

Mr. Hamilton said that in 1982 the company assisted with the establishment of the "Jamaica

Junior Naturalists," which is devoted to conservation of Jamaica's flora and fauna and aimed at young people between 6-18 in the schools. A number of JJN clubs have been formed in various schools, and with funding from Shell the organization produces newsletters, brochures, fact sheet, among other things, to promote the concept of conservation and to build a level of awareness among this group.

"During 1983, Shell will continue its commitment to the tune of \$10,000. This will assist the organization to further its educational thrust and specifically to organise an essay and poster competition among club members," Mr. Hamilton said.

He also announced that Shell had decided to become "visible, and permanently associated" with the system of road signs in Jamaica. "First, we are to take over and refurbish the places of interest signs originally erected by the Tourist Board all over the island."

He said that the company in conjunction with the Police Traffic Department was planning to improve the number and quality of road warning and advice signs, so important to road safety.

For sports, Mr. Hamilton said that the company would be participating in a major way with the programme of cricket development from the village level which had been devised by the Ministry of Youth and Community Development.

A total of \$200,000 will be spent in this area. Mr. Hamilton said, adding that Shell will continue its sponsorship of international cricket series "and we expect to continue our pioneering work in the presentation of night cricket."

Mr. Hamilton stated also that the company plans to establish a "KiddieTown" in Jamaica, the first in the Caribbean. Negotiations for a suitable site are in progress and "considerable assistance" from Shell International is expected.

He said that in Germany Shell operates over 100 Kiddie Towns equipped with all the city hazards in miniature.

For entertainment, Mr. Hamilton said that the company had decided to bring a "hot air balloon" to Jamaica to take people up for short rides. He explained that for public safety, there were a great many regulations attached to the use of a hot air balloon and Shell was in the process of ensuring that they were adequately met before implementation of the scheme early this summer.

DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL BUSINESS GOAL OF JNIP PROGRAMS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 Apr 83 p 2

[Text]

The Jamaica National Investment Promotions Limited (JNIP) has announced a Rural Outreach Programme to strengthen existing businesses and to encourage the formation of new ones.

Making the announcement on April 14, Mrs. Corine McLarty, managing director of JNIP, said under this programme services such as business counselling, loan packaging, marketing advice and monitoring functions would be provided to rural small businessmen.

Mrs. McLarty was speaking at a seminar at the New Kingston Hotel which was organized by the JNIP and the Jamaica Exporters Association and this was part of the National Export Week celebrations.

The programme was being undertaken in conjunction with the Parish Investment Programme initiated last year and this would encourage rural communities to assess their own resources and potential with a view to promoting them as "parishes of preferred investment localities."

Mrs. McLarty said already five parishes had established Interim Committees and based on the enthusiasm and hard work displayed so far, the JNIP had every reason to think that their efforts both to attract and stimulate investments would have favourable results.

She called attention to the high degree of investment activity in the areas of garment manufacture, furniture, chemicals and pharmaceuticals and agro-industry.

While expressing pleasure at the number of Jamaican manufacturers who were showing interest in joint ventures which provided access to overseas markets, Mrs. McLarty said increased production for export was only one side of the coin. She called for the expansion of marketing services, particularly to small business exporters.

BRIEFS

RECORD COCOA PRODUCTION—Kingston, Jamaica, Saturday, (CANA)--During the 1982-83 fall crop, Jamaica set a new record for cocoa production, the Agriculture Ministry has announced. The Cocoa Board for the 1982-83 fall crop collected 172 104 boxes of wet cocoa, surpassing the previous record of 155 672 boxes established in the 1964-65 fall crop. Production in 1981-82 was 77 015 boxes while in 1980-81 it was 93 488. Fifty-six pounds of wet cocoa are equivalent to a box. The fall crop ended on March 31 and indications are that the 1983 spring crop will also produce high yields, the Agriculture Minister said. Favourable weather conditions for the bearing of the cocoa pods, improved crop husbandry and field sanitation as well as better rat control by farmers have been cited by the Cocoa Industry Board as some of the factors which could have contributed to this rise in production. Although there has been some reduction in cocoa output in the major producing countries of Brazil and West Africa, the anticipated shortfall as a result of adverse weather conditions in these countries did not materialise. The effect of the weather was less severe than expected. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Apr 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/565

ERRATUM: This article republished from JPRS 83364 of 28 April 1983 No 2672 of this series pp 61-64 to add a name to first paragraph and to correct several translation errors.

UPCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS POSE PROBLEMS FOR PRI

PRI Fortification Campaign

Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 18 Feb 83 p 7

[Text] Oaxaca, Oax.--The state executive committee of the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], headed by Oswaldo Garcia Griollo and Ericel Gomez Nucamendi, have named the first 15 district delegates to begin the task of strengthening the party, a task started recently by the governor himself, Pedro Vasquez Colmenares.

This program has as its objective a campaign of persuasion among all the district, municipal, and sectional committees of the organization, according to the call for fortification issued by the governor.

Therefore, the state executive committee of the PRI appointed Ruben Vasconcelos-Beltran as delegate for Juchitan; Sergio Lovo Ortega for Tehuantepec; for Pochutla, Hector Anuar Mafud Mafud; Alfredo Benitez Toledo deputy for Tlacolula, and so forth.

PRI leader Garcia Criollo exhorted all of them to work as hard as they can on the task given to them by the party, in order to unify all social sectors behind the PRI, so that the party will win the municipal elections at the end of this year.

Oaxaca Among Weak Points

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 22 Feb 83 pp 4-A, 22-A

[From "Political Fronts" Column by Guillermo Canton Zetina]

[Text] Alert to PRI in 21 Municipalities

The Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] may face grave problems, and even in some cases lose, in 21 municipalities throughout the country holding elections this year. As the officers on the national executive committee themselves admit, the Institutional Revolutionary Party must be very careful in its selection of candidates, since, as it is already well-known, the dissasifaction of PRI members themselves causes more problems for the party than its traditional opponents.

One member of the national executive committee of the PRI admitted that in order to achieve its goal of democratic, participative, municipal assemblies to choose

suitable candidates and banish the danger of defeat, it must avoid the pitfall of certain governors who consider their municipalities as "private property, as if the voters had deeded them the state for 6 years."

So we see that there are going to be problems in Nuevo Laredo, where the present mayor is disputed by the citizens. And if that were not enough, the leader of the local Confederation of Mexican Workers [CTM], Pedro Perez Ibarra, who has the responsibility of urging PRI candidates, has a very poor public image, primarily because of a campaign against him in the Laredo newspaper EL MANANA. Perez Ibarra has gone so far as to found his own newspaper to defend himself. Matamoros has a mayor from the late Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution [PARM], Jorge Cardenas Gonzalez, who is in a similar situation to that in Nuevo Laredo, and has a fierce dispute with Agapito Gonzalez, the CTM leader.

The PRI leaders note that during the last election in Matamoros, voting went against the CTM leader rather than against the PRI, and that the same thing may happen in the next elections.

In the state of Chihuahua, they are, first and foremost, concerned about the capital city of Chihuahua, where the National Action Party [PAN] is strong and the nomination may go to Luis H. Alvarez, a presidential candidate in 1958, or perhaps to the former state leader of the blue and white party, Guillermo Prieto.

Ciudad Juarez is also endangered. It is the largest and most populous municipality in the state, and here the PAN is a serious threat, with Jose Posada Pompa, a prestigious PAN member, seen as a challenge to any PRI candidate. In Ciudad Camargo, imports and the dishonesty of CTM mayor Primitivo Campos may finish off the PRI with a devastating knock-out. In Delicias there is a PARM mayor and the area is fertile ground for the opposition.

In Baja California, the nominee for the gubernatorial candidate must be suitable, since if the Tricolor does not make a good choice, that is, listening to the demands of the people of Baja California, it will have serious trouble with the PAN in the governor's race, not to mention the towns of Tijuana and Mexicali.

In Puebla the PRI admits that "if a good candidate is not chosen, we may lose the capital. The blue and white is also a threat in Tehuacan. In Texiutlan there is a Popular Socialist Party [PPS] mayor and the PRI feels certain it can take the municipality back.

In Durango, the tricolor will have a hard time in the lakes region, since the PAN is strong in Lerdo and Gomez Palacio. In the capital it must be noted that during the last federal elections the PAN vote increased markedly, in a city in which votes for the blue and white have never been numerous.

In Sinaloa, the PRI faces trouble in Culiacan and Los Mochis. In the latter town, past elections caused the majority of citizens to believe that the PRI was really the loser, although it was remarked that "the problems have been overcome." The former view was attributed to the fact that "the mayor has done a good job", but mostly to the fact that the most prominent PAN members in Los Mochis are brothers of the state secretary general of government.

Regarding the port of Mazatlan, aside from the rumor circulating that business leader Emilio Goichoechea is considering running for the PAN, which has not been confirmed, there have been no other storm warnings.

In the state of Oaxaca, Juchitan is in the foreground in the hands of the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico], through the Independent Student Worker-Peasant Coalition [COCEI] and it does not seem that the PRI has any choice. But the main problem stems from how poor the tricolor candidates are compared to those of the PSUM.

In Huajuapán de León, the PAN is strong; in Tuxtepec the strongman rule of Víctor Bravo Ahuja has gotten the PRI into difficulties, and other towns with a complicated political situation--for the PRI--include Pinotepa Nacional and Loma Bonita. With regard to the extraordinary elections in Chiapas, the PRI feels certain in at least four of the five municipalities. In Huixtla and Motozintla, the tricolor party feels secure with "peaceful campaigns" because they nominated candidates "that people wanted" and now "the opposition is rejected."

PRI Practices Criticized

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 27 Feb 83 pp 4-A, 22-A

[From "Political Fronts" column by Humberto Aranda]

[Text] In Oaxaca, the First Problems

In Oaxaca, where the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] has Florencio Salazar Martínez as its delegate, the first problems caused by the nomination of candidates for mayor and local deputies occurred Friday night.

The events took place in Pochutla, and blame was placed on the PRI delegate, who was accused of favoring the interests of the strongmen and landholders in the region. Peasant leader Alejandro Cárdenas Peralta, who was forced to resign as municipal president of Pochutla in January 1981 after the state police and the army supported the takeover of the municipal presidency at the instigation of the businessmen, last Friday also resigned from his post as assistant secretary for organization of the state executive committee of the PRI.

He said that he was protesting delegate Salazar Martínez' attempt from the beginning to make him stand aside and leave the way open to the regional oligarchy.

Cárdenas Peralta's stand was supported in the nominating assembly headed by Salazar Martínez by 500 angry peasants who practically ran off the delegate and other PRI envoys.

Once Cárdenas Peralta snatched the microphone from the PRI delegate and reminded him that it was a nominating assembly and was not intended to "impose a decision sent down from the center."

Correspondent Rafael Emilio Bermudez reported that Cardenas Peralta publicly stressed that the PRI, with its policy of favoring those who exploit and subdue the peasants, is forcing them to turn to the Workers, Peasants', and Students' Coalition of the Isthmus [COCEI].

In truth, Cardenas is the president of the Vigilance Committee of the Pochutla Commissariat of Communal Properties, and as such he has faced those who monopolize land on the coast at Puerto Angel.

He has mainly denounced Julio Jalil and Antonio Mendiola, who have fenced off 500 hectares of the coastline. It is said that Jalil is the one who sold former president Lopez Portillo the Angel del Mar hotel, where the former president spent last Christmas holidays.

8587

CSO: 3248/621

WATERFRONT WORKERS, REPRESENTED BY WAGWU, WIN ACCORD

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 9 Apr 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

AN agreement has been reached by the Waterfront and General Workers Union (W.A.G.W.U.) and the St. Kitts Shipping Association for a 7% wage increase for waterfront workers for 1983-84.

There are at present 215 registered waterfront workers, comprised of 70 long shoremen, 45 stevedores, 22 winchmen, 55 lightermen, 10 watchmen, 8 tally clerks and 5 foremen. Of these a total of 185 (or 86%) are members of the W.A.G.W.U. By virtue of this overwhelming majority, the W.A.G.W.U. is the recognised bargaining agent for all port workers. For many years, the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union dominated the working conditions of the Basseterre Waterfront; although Labour did not have a clear majority of members.

On 31st March, however, the Labour Union wrote a letter to the W.A.G.W.U. suggesting that both Unions should go to the bargaining table for the workers. The Labour Union does not have even 15% of the members.

THE DEMOCRAT is reliably informed that the W.A.G.W.U. replied to the Labour Union, informing them that the W.A.G.W.U., with its 86% representation, found it unnecessary to have another bargaining body involved, but that the W.A.G.W.U. would consider any proposals which the Labour Union had in mind. The Labour Union did not respond.

Without any further ado, the W.A.G.W.U. represented by Messrs. W. Thomas, S. Stanley, P. Francis, L. Powell and L. Archibald, proceeded to the bargaining table and engaged in wage negotiations with the Shippers, whose case

was put by Messrs. G. Gillanders, I. Kelsick, O. Glasford and K. Kelly. Talks soon deadlocked with the W.A.G.W.U. insisting on an increase of 10% and the Shippers sticking to a counter-offer of 3%.

It is refreshing to note, however, that when the dispute was referred to the Labour Commissioner, both sides showed what the Labour Commissioner called a "genuine desire to reach agreement", and demonstrated a capacity for give-and-take. At the end of the meeting, the parties very sensibly accepted the compromise recommended by the Labour Commissioner. No side felt compelled, as the Labour Union and later Wellington Ltd. have done this year, to reject the objective and impartial proposals of the Labour Commissioner, much less of the Honourable Minister of Labour, whose intervention was not even called for. This prevented any stoppage of work, any loss of wages by the workers, any inconvenience by the general public, and any deterioration in industrial relations on the waterfront.

According to W.A.G.W.U. President Mr. Warren Thomas, his negotiating team gave him admirable support and displayed real leadership. The W.A.G.W.U. President referred to a story in The Labour Spokesman for April 2nd, headed "Gov't puts waterfront workers out of work without notice and severance pay", and he said that the story failed to explain what is really going on.

Some workers will become redundant by the change-over to the docking system at the Deep Water Port, started by the Labour Government, prior to 1980. But Mr. Thomas insisted that no worker has been laid off, and no workers will be laid off until the question of severance pay is conclusively settled. It is the Shipping Association, he said, and not the Government, which up to now employs the port workers, but the question of severance pay has been raised by the Government and is under consideration by the Shippers. Containerisation of cargo began under Labour, Mr. Thomas pointed out and that adversely affected the earnings of winchmen, gangwaymen, stevedores, launch operators, lightermen and crane drivers. On the other hand, it was the present Government that in January 1981 saw to it that waterfront workers were for the first time ever, included in the payment of the Sugar Industries Goat Water Bonus, and his Union would pursue discussions on the severance pay which is already accepted by the Government to be due to affected categories of waterfront workers.

BUDGET PROPOSAL: CURB PUBLIC SERVICE SALARIES, IMPORTS

Objections to Wage Demands

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 16 Apr 83 p 16

[Text]

THE strain placed by the public service on St. Lucia's recurrent expenditure was highlighted by Prime Minister John Compton, when he presented Parliament with an EC\$185.8 million 1983-84 fiscal budget on Thursday.

Compton's statements came against the background of recent demands for pay increases ranging from 50 to 75 percent made by three trade unions representing civil servants, teachers and daily-paid government employees.

The Government has already told the unions that these increases can only be met with new tax increases or with redundancies in the public service to match the increase in emoluments being sought.

Compton revealed that the Government was already so hard pressed to meet its monthly commitments to pay public servants that last December it had to resort to borrowing EC\$9.5 million from the Trinidad and Tobago Government for that purpose.

The Government says it is still to finish paying 1982 backpay to civil servants on the basis of an agreement reached before his United Workers Party government came to power last May.

He claimed that the 1982 agreement which provided for 57 percent increases had been hastily made for purely political reasons. Compton

told Parliament: "How in heaven's name can there now be demands for higher salaries in 1983 when the increase awarded in 1982 cannot, even now, be fully met? How can there be demands for increases in personal income when the national income has been declining?"

He said public sector workers comprised a mere 19 percent of the total workforce yet they received 51 percent or EC\$55.56 million of the Government's recurrent expenditure. And while the average per capita income in St. Lucia was EC\$1,562, that for the public sector was EC\$7,685.

He added: "In fact the per capita income in St. Lucia's public sector is the highest in the Windward and Leeward Islands and exceeded that of Guyana. While between 1980 and 1982 the economy stagnated, the public sector workers here received increases ranging from 57 to 60 percent.

Compton disclosed that the new demands being made by the unions would mean an additional EC\$12 million

during the current fiscal year alone, increasing to EC\$16.5 million in 1984-85.

He said the demands by the unions run counter to everything that was happening elsewhere. "Indeed, not only has there been a general reduction in wage demands, but in many instances union have proposed wage freezes and even wage cuts to save jobs. We in St. Lucia cannot continue to act as though we are in another world and are immune to the effects of world economic conditions, or that we can write the rules for the rest of the world."

Compton hoped that in the current talks between the Government's negotiating team and the unions, good sense would prevail.

Compton also called for a general reorganisation of the public services to make it more responsive to the country's developmental needs. The administrative element, was already too large, he said, adding: "Any business organisation which spends 51 percent of its earnings on overheads is headed for bankruptcy."

Call for Imports Restraint

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 16 Apr 83 p 16

[Text]

ST. LUCIANS have been urged to exercise restraint in their imports and have been warned that either such restraints were self-imposed or they might have to be instituted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The warning came from Prime Minister and Finance Minister, John Compton while presenting his 1983-84 fiscal budget to Parliament, on Thursday.

Compton has repeatedly called on St. Lucians to discipline themselves and help pull the country out of its economic problems to keep it from having to seek IMF assistance.

According to Compton, St. Lucia currently has an adverse trade balance of EC\$200 million with 1982-83 imports at EC\$319 million and exports totalling EC\$119.5 million.

He asked: "How long can we continue to live beyond our means without paying the supreme penalty of economic collapse? To prevent this we must produce more and we must exercise restraint in our imports."

The Prime Minister added: "Some control must be placed on imports and the availability of consumer credit if we are to retain some money in this island and it is the Government's intention to set a ceiling on consumer credit

for certain selected items in order to make more of our financial resources available for investment in the productive sector."

Compton disclosed that one of the major problems facing St. Lucia was the shortage of money in its banking system. Money which should be used for local investment, he said, was being exported, "in hundreds of millions of dollars" annually to purchase "consumer goods of the most vulgar conspicuity" rather than capital goods which were income and revenue generating.

At the moment, he said, there were four motor cars on the island's docks, each valued in excess of EC\$100,000. Asked Compton: "What have these potential owners done to earn the foreign exchange to import these vehicles? It is the earnings of the agricultural, tourism and industrial sectors that they are exporting."

Compton also accused some local hotel managers of imposing on themselves the functions of foreign exchanges "or unauthorised Bureaux De Changes" and exporting "in cash and in suitcases" the foreign exchange collected at their hotels which should be deposited at the banks as required by law.

Editorial Comment

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 16 Apr 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Plug the Holes, Stop Talking"]

[Text]

IN presenting his 1983-84 budget to Parliament on Thursday, Mr. Compton spoke of the need for St. Lucians to exercise restraint in their imports as one of the necessary elements for the island's economic recovery.

According to Mr. Compton, St. Lucia was currently experiencing a \$200 million adverse balance of trade situation. He spoke of the importation of what he referred to as "consumer goods of the most vulgar conspicuity" and mentioned four motor cars costing more than \$100,000 each which he said, were now lying on the docks.

To counter this, he announced the Government's intention to place a ceiling on consumer credit for certain selected items in order to make more of the country's financial resources available for investment in the productive sector.

We welcome this move. Readers will be aware that THE VOICE has, even in the days when the economy was in better shape, complained about the consumer patterns in this country and the manner in which St. Lucians have been allowed free rein to misuse the country's resources on fancy imports, especially luxury items.

At a time when many of our CARI-COM neighbours are looking towards their own economic survival without apparently taking into consideration the fact that some of their smaller partners, like St. Lucia, need their markets for export purposes, St. Lucia can do no better than institute some measure of import control.

In fact, as Mr. Compton has indicated, the situation which has ensued as a result of the restrictions imposed by three of the more wealthy CARI-COM countries, will have the effect of slowing down St. Lucia's economic recovery because of the new difficulty that has arisen in exporting to markets like Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Also St. Lucia cannot wait for the establishment of the OECS Central Bank to control the outflow of funds from the country. It must begin to take, even the smallest measures possible to protect itself.

On the other hand, we have grown tired of the Prime Minister's complaints about this leakage and promises to plug the holes. If there are hotel managers in this country engaged in the illegal export of foreign exchange, the Government must move against them. Complaints in Parliament could have little effect if the Government is not prepared to institute the necessary follow up action.

We share Mr. Compton's view that in the effort to restore St. Lucia's badly bruised economy, much of the money earned here should be retained locally for development purposes.

What we don't share, however, is the Government's apparent unwillingness to take firm and decisive action against the minority who continue to bleed the country with impunity.

Surely, the Prime Minister owes it to the country to investigate the reasons why a foreign exchange tax which was expected to yield \$14 million in the last fiscal year, only netted a paltry \$2.1 million.

If Mr. Compton is convinced there is a leak somewhere, he must make his threat to plug it come true. St. Lucians will accept nothing less.

BRIEFS

LABOUR PARTY REUNIFICATION--The various factional elements of the St. Lucia Labour Party have held talks leading to the re-unification of the Party, a spokesman said yesterday. It has been agreed that the party which is the oldest political party in St. Lucia needs to be urgently re-organised "in view of the callous disregard of the ruling regime for a meaningful distribution of the resources of this country and also in view of the numerous unfulfilled election promises," a joint press release by both factions of the party said. The party has therefore taken the following decisions:

(1) to hold a workers rally in Dennery on May 1 to mark Labour Day and at which all Trade Unions are expected to be present. (2) to launch a series of public meetings culminating in the complete re-organisation of the party at its annual conference to be held on the first Sunday of August, 1983.

(3) to seek a mandate from all Workers to form a broad coalition of all forces including Trade Unions opposed to the United Workers Party regime with a view to toppling the said regime through established machinery and establishing a true People's Government in St. Lucia. The SLP has been divided into rival factions since after the May 1982 general elections.

[Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 16 Apr 83 p 1]

FARMERS CO-OP TECHNICAL EVALUATION--The St. Lucia Association of Farmers Co-operatives is undertaking a technical evaluation project estimated to cost approximately Cdn. \$107,000 over a two year period. The bulk of the funding for this project will come from the Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada, which is contributing Cdn. \$55,000 to this effort. Other "in-kind" and local contributions will be provided by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Association said. In the short term, the grant will enable the Association to pursue its objectives with its affiliates, the Saint Lucia Egg and Pig producers Co-operatives to become more efficient farmers on a full-time basis. The long-term objectives are inter-related, aimed at establishing the Co-operative as an organization which can provide farm inputs and technical assistance to its members, purchase, store, grade and process members' produce and also carry out wholesale and retail trade for such products. To achieve these objectives, the project will have three components: technical assistance, marketing and an evaluation. On the technical side, working with officials in the Ministry of Agriculture and CARDI, a series of 20 one-day seminars is planned. These are aimed at improving efficiencies at the farm and at the supply level in both pork and eggs. On the marketing side, the Co-operative will employ a Marketing Officer who will seek to improve the marketing of existing products in eggs and pork, as well as to develop markets in new products, be it vegetables or broilers for local consumption, or other agricultural products for export. [Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE 16 Apr 83 p 16]

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN CENTERS ON HOUSING, RURAL PROGRAMS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

DECENTRALISATION, the implementation of strong land use controls and the institution of a comprehensive rural development programme are some of the measures proposed in the National Physical Development Plan for Trinidad and Tobago.

The Plan, prepared by the Town and Country Planning Division of the Ministry of Finance, was tabled in the House of Representatives yesterday. It has eight major development proposals:

- The pursuit of overall national growth centre strategy in order to effect some degree of decentralisation of activity outside of the Capital Region (St George) and redress the problems of regional imbalances.

- The development of a national system of settlements in which there is a defined hierarchy of centres, strong communication and activity linkages, and levels of services and facilities that are commensurate with service populations and functions.

- The implementation of strong land use controls particularly with re-

ference to agriculture and conservation areas.

- The institution of a comprehensive rural development programme in six selected depressed areas.

- The implementation of physical, social and economic measures for fuller employment creation and structural change in the economy.

- The undertaking of a massive housing and construction programme functionally related to the distribution of growth centres and employment areas.

- The phasing of major development undertakings so that all the critical factors such as infrastructure, housing etc. are brought together in concert at the right time.

- A re-evaluation and rationalisation of the administrative and organisational framework for planning and development to allow for integrated corporate management and programming and greater public participation in the development process.

The Plan is the second major one in a decade.

CSO: 3298/568

CENTRAL BANK OFFICIAL WARNS OF CREDIT CONTROL VIOLATIONS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Apr 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THE CENTRAL Bank has warned the nation to draw the purse strings tighter.

New policies are to be implemented and existing ones are to be re-enforced on commercial banks to contain credit expansion and foreign reserves, Dr. Euric Bobb, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank, said on Thursday night.

Dr. Bobb, delivering the feature address at the opening of 17th (Chaguana) branch of the Royal Bank of Trinidad & Tobago said that over the past two years commercial bankers were flouting selective credit control guidelines imposed by the Central Bank.

Moving swiftly to control consumer spending, the Central Bank in 1979 set a ceiling of 25 per cent of commercial bank deposits for non-business and personal loans.

Last year, however, the banks exceeded the figure by 15.4 per cent and in 1981 by 10.5 per cent.

Dr. Bobb said that overshooting the guideline was persistent and cumulative.

He advised commercial bankers "to fall in line or we shall have to search for other means to ensure compliance.

Controls on the overall rate of credit expansion and the allocation of credit might have to be bolstered by more direct measures if the target in respect for conservation of reserves remained unattainable.

According to Dr. Bobb, the Central Bank will continue to adopt measures to restrain the expansion of credit by the banks and other financial institutions by its marginal reserve requirement of 15 per cent of incremental deposits.

The marginal reserve requirement has withdrawn about \$496 million or 7.5 per cent of the total banking system for the year.

The exercise will continue to act as a brake on credit expansion which should slow down even further in 1983.

The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$525 million or by about 7 per cent for 1982, the first time the economy recorded a decline since the oil boom of 1973.

Foreign exchange demanded by the private non-oil sector was \$241 million or by about 7 per cent of 1982, the first time the economy recorded a decline since the oil boom of 1973.

Foreign exchange demanded by the private non-oil sector was \$214 million in 1973; in 1981 it was \$3,272 million, an average annual rate of increase of 38.5 per cent.

Last year the increase was 22 per cent which had to be financed from past savings.

"I must stress that the reserves position at the end of 1982 was still comfortable by conventional standards of measurement representing about 12 months worth of imports of goods and services at estimated 1983 levels," Dr. Bobb said.

He forecast further weakening in the economy due to high dependence on the petroleum sector for generation of both foreign exchange and the autonomous force to propel the economy forward.

With the fall of oil prices on the international market, the Government would experience a loss in revenue and there were other activities which were net earners of foreign exchange and certainly none that in the short term could compensate for the losses in the oil sector, Dr. Bobb said.

The outflow of foreign exchange might continue to rise, though at a slower rate than the Central Bank experienced over the last decade.

The upshoot of the reduction in the country's foreign exchange earnings and of higher outflows to pay for imports would lead to foreign exchange reserves declining further this year, Dr. Bobb added.

He said that the nation must plan carefully on how to use the valuable foreign exchange reserves accrued over the boom years.

PRIORITY USES

He suggested that foreign exchange reserves must be carefully managed while in the medium to long run, the country must develop a viable set of export activities capable of earning adequate foreign exchange to support the growth and development of the economy.

The Central Bank was generous in approving the release of foreign exchange but the purse strings "will have to be drawn much tighter."

"We must ensure that foreign exchange is allocated to priority uses," Dr. Bobb advised.

Some demands for foreign exchange which were non-essential could not be met while among essential uses "we must give priority to those sectors or industries which

now or in the future are likely to be net earners of foreign exchange."

Tighter management of foreign exchange, Dr. Bobb said, would entail implementation of new policies and re-enforcement of existing policies.

The country developed quite an appetite for imported goods and services in recent years. Dr. Bobb said expenditure on vacation travel overseas rose from \$61.6 million in 1977 to about \$310 million in 1982; on education from \$29.6 million to \$79 million in 1981; sparkling wine from \$621,000 to \$2.1 million; other wines from \$1.6 million to \$5 million; brandy from \$442,000 to \$4.5 million; whisky from \$10.3m to \$33m; apples and grapes from \$3.3m to \$9.4m.

On tighter management of foreign exchange, he called on the nation cut down on how often people travelled, where and for how long, and for business it meant harder bargaining and negotiation for technical and managerial agreements, identifying and utilising cheaper sources of imports and where ever possible substituting local for imported products.

REGISTRATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS UNDER WAY

President's Proclamation

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

PRESIDENT Ellis Clarke has issued a Proclamation declaring a period of electoral registration in accordance with Section 30 of the Representation of the People Ordinance.

The Proclamation is in respect of 11 electoral areas in Trinidad — seven Counties, and four Municipalities — for the upcoming Local Government elections.

As a result, the Elections and Boundaries Commission will post up its Preliminary List of voters on the fixed date — April 18 — and establish temporary registration centres in each electoral district.

April 25 — the day before the qualifying date — will be the last day that the pupil can make changes to their

names (those who have been married), and change of address in case they have moved since last they were registered to vote; or, in the case of persons who have attained age 18 — for them to register as voters.

On April 26, all the temporary registration centres will be closed. April 29 will be the last day for objections to be lodged in relation to the Preliminary List.

Meanwhile according to an official of the Elections and Boundaries Commission, electoral maps will be on sale and preliminary lists of electors will be available at the Central Electoral Office, Salvatori Building, and at Registration offices from Monday.

Public Response

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 24 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

VOTERS registration for the upcoming local government elections has been very poor, according to the Elections and Boundaries Commission.

In the first four days since the commission set up 152 registration centres, less than 300 voters have been serviced. As a result, Chief Elections Officer Andrew Tyson, has issued an appeal to all concerned to check the Voter's List.

They are to check to see if their names are on the list and whether their addresses are correct.

Those who have reached the age of 18 after April 18 must register at the temporary registration centre in their area. Also voters who have changed their addresses or women who have married and changed their names since the last election.

In the light of criticisms of the Voters' List, which are sometimes made following an election, Mr. Tyson, in a letter to the Editor of the "Guardian", has singled out eight important points reminding prospective voters of the following:

- A period of electoral registration is proclaimed, fixing April 18 as the date of commencement.

- Qualifying date for the forthcoming local government election is April 27, which means that Wednesday is the last day to register if one wishes to vote;

- The commission has established at least one centre in each of the 120 electoral districts in which elections are to be held. Location of each centre has been published in the Press and official Gazette;

- The centres which were open for business on April 18 will remain open until Tuesday;

- The preliminary list of Electors for each polling division has been posted for public inspection in two places within each each polling division. The places where these lists are posted have been published in the Press.

- In addition to the 152 temporary centres established, an elector may also obtain information at his registration area office or the Central Electoral Office;

- A registration officer would have no authority to act on any application for registration, change of address or any matter involving amendment of the Voters' List for the forthcoming elections, if such application is received after April 26

- As a result, the period April 18 to 26 affords the final opportunity for any eligible person to enfranchise himself or herself, or to ensure that their registration is in order.

City Council Discussions

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

PORT-OF-SPAIN City Council wants no part of power sharing with community or village councils.

This was made clear when the Council met the last time for the 1980-1983 term at City Hall on Tuesday.

Under the chairmanship of Mayor George Neehall, members discussed the White Paper on local government reform. The Council also stressed it should be represented on all Government-appointed boards which dealt with aspects of life in the city.

Mayor Neehall, who has been

nominated to contest a seat in the upcoming local government elections, said he had a fruitful three-year term in the Mayoral chair.

Each member present gave a farewell speech. Speaking on behalf of the executive was Mr. Oscar Blenman, Deputy City Clerk.

Yesterday members of City and Borough Councils vacated office and are no longer councillors or aldermen.

Remaining in office until successors are elected are the Mayors and County Councils Chairmen.

CSO: 3298/568

WORKER RETRENCHMENT ISSUE IN SPOTLIGHT, LED BY OWTU

Terms of Texaco Retirement Plan.

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 17 Apr 83 pp 1, 13

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text]

TEXACO Trinidad Inc. has been given the green light to implement its retirement plan.

The company will start to retire workers from May 1, and the exercise is expected to be completed within three months, on a phased basis starting with the 64-year-olds first.

Agreement to the effect was signed on Friday night at the Labour Office, Cipero Street, San Fernando.

Mr. Lloyd Austin, General Manager, headed the company's team at the signing ceremony while Mr. George Weekes, president general of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union, led the union's side with Minister of Labour, Mr. Errol Mahabir, leading the Ministry's team.

The exact number of workers to be affected was not revealed, but it is understood that there are some 700 workers over 60 years who will be retired.

The following are the terms of settlement agreed upon:

1. Subject as hereinafter provided, members of the Employees Benefit Plan and participants of the Staff Retirement Plan who have already attained age 60 and over will retire with effect from May 1, 1983.

For such employees:

(a) Pensionable service shall be calculated as though the employees had worked to age 65.

(b) Pensions shall be calculated as if these employees had worked to age 65 and shall not be discounted on account of commencement of payment before age 65.

(c) Employees Gratuity Provident Fund and any other provident fund credit shall be deemed to have earned interest up

to and as though withdrawal is effected as of the first day of the month following the employees' attainment of aged 65.

(d) A special cash retirement supplemental payment will be made to each such employee on the basis of two and one-half months current basic salary wage for each year remaining between date of termination of employment and the end of the month in which the employee would have reached age 65. This payment will be prorated for each completed month less than a year. In the case of a weekly rated employee, a monthly wage shall be calculated on the basis of 52 weeks pay share by 12. In the case of an hourly rated employee, a monthly wage shall be calculated on the basis of 40 hours pay multiply by 52 and share by 12.

(e) Leave in the year 1983 shall be deemed to have accrued on January 1, 1983 and leave payment will be effected on this basis where such leave has not already been taken.

(f) An outstanding medical expenses in the employees' Medical Benefit Plan Fund incurred overseas and payable by employees due for retirement under these provisions shall be waived.

2. These employees who on or after the effective date have attained age 58 and not age 60 will continue to work until the end of the month in which they attain age 60. For such employees at the time of retirement:

(a) Pensionable service shall be deemed to extend to the end of their birth month in the year 1985.

(b) Employees Gratuity Provident Fund and any other provident fund shall be deemed to have earned interest up to and as

though withdrawal had been effected at the end of the employee birth month in 1985.

(c) A special cash retirement supplemental payment will be made to each such employee on the basis of two and a half months salary wage at the date of termination for each complete year or part thereof remaining between the date of termination of employment (at age 60) and the end of his birth month in 1985. In the case of a weekly rated employee, a monthly wage shall be calculated on the basis of 52 weeks pay share by 12. In the case of an hourly rated employee, a monthly wage shall be calculated on the basis of 40 hours pay multiply by 52 share by 12.

(e) The above provisions will apply through June 30, 1985, i.e. persons who have attained age 58 on or before June 30 1983 will receive the above benefits.

(d) Leave in the year 1983 shall be deemed to have accrued on January 1, 1983 and leave payment will be effected on this basis where such leave has not already been taken.

3. Employees who are not members of the Employees Benefit Plan or Staff Retirement Plan or Staff Superannuation Scheme shall receive a special cash retirement supplemental payment as specified in No. 1 (d) or No. 2 (c) as appropriate. Further, if such employee is a member of the Employees Gratuity Provident Fund or any other provident fund or the Staff Superannuation Scheme he shall receive such provident fund money or retirement pension on the same basis as provided for in paragraph 1 or 2 above as applicable.

4. Employees who retire from active service and who have outstanding house loans under the company's Housing Aid Plan shall continue to be charged interest on their loan balances at the rate of five per cent per annum and no more, and where appropriate repayment schedule will be considered on an individual basis.

House insurance coverage will continue to be handled through the

company's Housing Aid Plan.

5. A medical plan for all retirees shall be introduced.

6. A voluntary hospitalisation plan for all retirees shall be introduced provided that there be the minimum number participants required by an insurance company.

7. At the time of retirement any employee may elect to have his monthly pension actuarially adjusted so that his pension will be payable either for his life time and guaranteed for 15 years or payable for his life time and guaranteed for 10 years. However, for those employees who have attained aged 60 and over effective May 1, 1983, pension will be guaranteed up to age 75.

8. The 60 per cent limitation of pension in the Employees Benefit Plan shall be removed.

9. On the understanding of the parties that the Minister of Labour will submit to Cabinet a strong recommendation to grant tax concessions, as hereinafter, referred, to every employee who retires in accordance with the terms hereof and who receives a special cash retirement supplemental payment as referred to No. 1 (b), No. 2(c) and No. 3 above.

The parties agree that no such retirement shall be effected before the Government conveys authority to the company to effect payment on the amount hereinafter provided free of tax.

The concession to be sought will be that no tax shall be payable on the first \$80,000.

10 Where suitable vacancy arrives the company shall give preference to the craft apprentices and student technicians retrenched between the months August and December 1982.

11 Effective May 1, 1983, the rules of the Employees Benefit Plan, Staff Retirement Plan and Permanent Disability Plan shall be read with such modification and or alterations as if normal retirement date is age 60 and be deemed to have been amended accordingly. The rules of the said plans shall be amended accordingly.

Union Vow on Cuts

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Apr 83 p 3

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO, Sun.,
MR GEORGE WEEKES, President General of Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU), has warned that any attempt to reduce further the labour force in the oil industry would be met with the maximum resistance, different from what had been going on in the particular struggle.

The OWTU leader gave the warning on Friday night in San Fernando, where the OWTU and Texaco Trinidad, Inc. signed an agreement to reduce the retirement age from 65 to 60 years. He said:

"I speak here today, with a feeling of regret that oil workers, who produced so much for our country, whereby the country itself could reach to the highest point of the rig, could not see through their efforts a new society that we are hoping to build through the petrodollars in the main.

"The reduction in the workforce surely will mean additional reduction in funds not only for the workers affected, but for the Government and people of our country.

He said the records would show that the union resisted with all the power at its command to prevent same. "We have done that in the past, because we hate to see people go on the breadline, and seeing the importance of the oil industry and in recognition of the fact, as stated years ago that peace in Trinidad depended on peace in the oil industry.

MARRIAGE OF PROTEST

"We, a peace-loving people, in our resistance to retrenchment, were attempting to prevent any type of war developing in our society that we could recall and reflect to the 1937 period, when oil workers revolted. "We have agreed to this reduction under a marriage of protest, from not only the executive, but our members generally. We agree, because we saw no other choice in doing otherwise and because of the situation we are seeing developing throughout the world in the oil industry, brought about through no fault of the oil producing countries of the world, but because of high-level manipulation on the part of the Western powers to break OPEC."

In recognition of the fact that "we are part of the world, we know it is our duty to resist, but as I said earlier, we have agreed because, had it not been for our agreement, young vibrant workers — the future of our country — would have been sent home.

TEARFUL EYES

"And you, Mr. Minister, (Mr. Mahabir) by reading out that letter that was just handed us by Mr. Austin, would see quite clearly what I am talking about; that the withdrawal of the notices of retrenchment came only as a result of this agreement this evening.

"Rather than see young men leave, out of dialogue with the senior workers who will be losing in the majority of cases, five years of salary they themselves as true patriots of our country discussed the matter, and with tears in their eyes, offered themselves to go home earlier, provided we can get something that is, if not satisfactory, as near as it is possible so to do."

The OWTU leader said it was on that basis, today we have signed, with the consent of senior workers who are concerned about the future of our nation."

He said that "we would like to give fair warning to all concerned that we would not like to see a threat made to reduce the labour force in the oil industry further, because if this is attempted it will be met with the maximum amount of resistance different from what we have been doing in this particular struggle."

One of the factors they took into consideration was that in other areas in the oil industry, for example, at Trintoc, there was also a 60-year retirement period.

He said in 1980, "we asked Texaco, through Mr. Austin, to reduce the age, and that was rejected. The workers felt consolidated in their work period of 65, and were not prepared for what eventually has now become a reality."

"We appeal strongly to the Government, through the Minister of Labour, that what has happened today would not happen in the future. If, for some reason beyond the control of anyone of us present there is going to be a reduction in the labour force, we would like to sit and talk and arrive at a resolution of the matter through discussions with the national oil company, owned and controlled by nationals of Trinidad and Tobago."

Texaco Restructuring

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO, Sun.,
MR. LLOYD AUSTIN, General Manager of Texaco Trinidad, Inc. spoke on Friday night of restructuring the operations of the company, in the light of the agreement reached in the retirement age issue.

Minister of Labour, Mr Errol Mahabir, noted that it was a very long and difficult series of discussions, and decisions were very difficult on both sides. "I am confident that the best decision has been made."

Mr Austin said he guessed that the biggest problem for him now was to come up with the money to pay for it all, in view of the very difficult situation in which they were in.

He said the real work, though, came to the benefit section, and he has asked Mr Foskett and his group to make this transition as smooth as they possibly could.

Mr Austin said further that he had instructed each of the divisional

managers, those who would be personally involved, to get with the branch officers as early as possible to discuss how this transition could take place.

He spoke of changes to be made in the restructuring — promotions to fill vacancies — and it was going to involve co-ordination and regular meetings with the appropriate officers.

Mr Austin said, "I am sure Mr Weekes will join me in giving special thanks to the Minister of Labour for his hard work in the innovative ideas he has come up with during these discussions, without which, I am sure, this agreement tonight would never have been reached."

PPM on Layoffs

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Apr 83 p 7

[Text]

MORE THAN 28,000 workers lost their jobs during the first three months of this year, the People's Popular Movement (PPM) said.

The political party, led by trade unionist Michael Als, claimed that in 1982 alone 23,000 workers were placed on the breadline.

OWTU on Texaco Plan

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Apr 83 p 12

[Text]

TO OILWORKERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC,

On Friday April 15th, following a full debate at the Union's General Council, the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU's) negotiating team signed a memorandum of agreement which provided for the early retirement of some seven hundred (700) workers age 60-65 and employed by Texaco. This brought about a temporary reprieve to the retrenchment crisis at Texaco.

From early in 1982 Texaco signalled its intention to have the retirement age reduced, when during the monthly paid negotiations the Company proposed an earlier retirement date. That proposal was rejected by the Union. It has now been over one year that the Union has been resisting Texaco in its vicious campaign to retrench thousands of oilworkers.

On September 3rd Texaco informed the Union that it intended to send home indefinitely some 76 workers on full pay as there was "no work for them." This was rejected by the Union and exposed as psychological warfare being waged by Texaco against its workers.

Then on September 15th 1982 Texaco wrote the Union stating that it was going to implement early retirement effective October 1st 1982, the only compensation being that "employees

shall be deemed to have attained age 65." The Union the Company that that was totally unacceptable.

The OWTU also pursued other avenues. Specifically we wrote in September 1982 to the Prime Minister requesting his intervention in this potentially explosive issue. He did not respond. We met with the Government's inter-Ministerial team and submitted on September 20th a detailed memorandum on the oil industry. To date the Committee held no further discussions with the Union.

In October the Labour Congress and the Council of Progressive Trade Unions jointly wrote the Prime Minister requesting an urgent meeting to discuss retrenchment. The Texaco issue would have been one of the problems highlighted. Again there was no response.

The Union published full page ads to inform the nation of the machinations of Texaco and to warn the Minister of Finance not to succumb to Texaco in the budget. Our pleas to officialdom fell on ears that have been trained to "turn off."

The last straw came on March 25th 1983 when Texaco informed the Union that some 400 young workers would be sent home in three weeks time. This was clearly to put the Union and the workers under duress and force the Union into agreeing to the early retirement.

We again wrote the Prime Minister and requested a meeting to specifically get clarification on the Government's position on Dr. Williams letter of September 30th 1968 which stated, *"There should be no further retrenchment in the oil industry without the specific approval of the Cabinet in writing,"* and which policy was embedded in the Third Five Year Development Plan 1969-1973 as approved by Parliament. The Secretary to the Prime Minister referred us back to the Minister of Labour - who informed us he could not speak for Cabinet as no decision had been taken on the validity of the 1968 letter.

It is clear that the Government was too scared of the mighty Texaco to protect oilworkers job security. Faced with the prospect of having 400 young workers being put on the breadline, the Union with the approval of senior workers concerned and after several marathon sessions at the Ministry of Labour and at Beaumont Hill reluctantly agreed to the early retirement.

We are convinced that Texaco will be coming with further retrenchment as the Chairman of Texaco Trinidad Inc. informed the Government in June 1982 - *"the current employment levels at the refinery exceed needs by several thousand. As a minimum, initial step, Texaco requests full and prompt Government support for its proposal to the OWTU for mandatory retirement at age 60. As noted it will be required to reduce the workforce further."*

We have won considerably more for the early retirees (see agreement and letters below) than what Texaco offered on September 15th 1982. But we state here and now. The buck of retrenchment in the oil industry has come to a stop. The struggle for jobs security continues.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

The following are terms of settlement between Texaco Trinidad Inc. and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union relating to the retirement of employees before the normal retirement date.

- 1] Subject as hereinafter provided, members of the Employees Benefit Plan (E.B.P.) as Participants of the Staff Retirement Plan (S.R.P.) who have already attained age sixty (60) and over will retire with effect from 1st May, 1983. For such employees:

- (a) Pensionable service shall be calculated as though the employees had worked to age 65;
 - (b) Pensions shall be calculated as if these employees have worked to age 65 and shall not be discounted on account of commencement of payment before age 65;
 - (c) Employees Gratuity Provident Fund (E.G.P.F.) and any other Provident Fund credits shall be deemed to have earned interest up to and as though withdrawal is effected as of the First day of the month following the employee's attainment of age 65;
 - (d) A special cash retirement supplemental payment will be made to each such employee on the basis of two and one half ($2\frac{1}{2}$) months' current basic salary/wage for each year remaining between date of termination of employment and the end of the Month in which the employees would have reached age 65. This payment will be prorated for each completed month less than a year. In the case of a weekly rated employee a monthly wage shall be calculated on the basis of 52 weeks pay \div 12. In the case of an hourly rated employee a monthly wage shall be calculated on the basis of 40 hours pay \times 52 \div 12.
 - (e) Leave in the year 1983 shall be deemed to have accrued on the 1st January, 1983, and leave payments will be effected on this basis where such leave has not already been taken;
 - (f) Any outstanding medical expenses in the Employees Medical Benefit Plan Fund incurred overseas and payable by employees due for retirement under these provisions shall be waived.
- 2] Those employees who on or after the effective date have attained age 58 but not age 60 will continue to work until the end of the month in which they attain age 60. For such employees at the time of retirement:
- (a) Pensionable service shall be deemed to extend to the end of their birth month in the year 1985;
 - (b) Employees Gratuity Provident Fund (E.G.P.F.) and any other Provident Fund shall be deemed to have earned interest up to and as though withdrawal had been effected at the end of the employee's birth month in 1985;
 - (c) A special cash retirement supplemental payment will be made to each such employee on the basis of two and a half ($2\frac{1}{2}$) months' salary/wage at date of termination for each complete year or part thereof remaining between the date of termination for employment (at age 60) and the end of his birth month in 1985.

In the case of a weekly rated employee a monthly wage shall be calculated on the basis of 52 weeks pay + 12. In the case of an hourly rated employee a monthly wage shall be calculated on the basis of 40 hours pay x 52 + 12.

The above provisions will apply through June 1985 i.e. persons who have attained age 58 on or before June 30th 1983 will receive the above benefits.

- (d) Leave in the year 1983 shall be deemed to have accrued on the 1st January 1983, and leave payments will be effected on this basis where such leave has not already been taken.
- 3) Employees who are not members of the Employ benefit Plan (E.B.P), or Staff Retirement Plan (S.R.P.), or Staff Superannuation Scheme shall receive a special cash retirement supplement payment as specified in 1 (d) or 2 (c) as appropriate. Further if such employee a member of the Employees Gratuity Provident Fund (E.G.P.F.) or any other Provident and or the Staff Superannuation Scheme, he shall receive such Provident Fund moneys retirement pensions on the same basis as provided for in paragraph 1 or 2 above as applicable.
- 4) Employees who retire from active service and who have outstanding housing loans under the Company's Housing Aid Plan shall continue to be charged interest on their loan balances at the rate of 5% per annum and no more and where appropriate repayment schedules will be considered on an individual basis. House Insurance coverage will continue to be handled through the Company's Housing Aid Plan.
- 5) A Medical Plan for all Retirees shall be introduced.
- 6) A voluntary Hospitalisation Plan for all Retirees shall be introduced provided that there be the minimum number of participants required by an Insurance Company.
- 7) At the time of retirement an employee may elect to have his monthly pension actuarially adjusted so that his pension will be payable either for his life time and guaranteed for fifteen (15) years, or payable for his life time and guaranteed for ten (10) years. However, for those employees who have attained age 60 and over effective May 1st, 1983, pension will be guaranteed up to age 75.
- 8) The 60% limitation of pension in Employees Benefit Plan (E.B.P.) shall be removed.

- 9] On the understanding of the parties that the Minister of Labour will submit to Cabinet a strong recommendation to grant tax concessions as hereinafter referred to every employee who retires in accordance with the terms hereof and who receives a special cash retirement supplemental payment as referred to in 1 (d), 2 (c) and 3 above the parties agree that no such retirement shall be effected before the Government conveys authority to the Company to effect payment on the amount hereinafter provided free of tax. The concession to be sought will be that no tax shall be payable on the first \$80,000.
 - 10] Where suitable vacancies arise the Company shall give preference to the Craft Apprentices and Student Technicians retrenched between the months of August and December, 1982.
 - 11] Effective May 1st, 1983, the rules of the Employees Benefit Plan (E.B.P.), Staff Retirement Plan (S.R.P.) and Permanent Total Disability (P.T.D.) Plan shall be read with such modifications and/or alterations as if normal retirement date is age (60) and be deemed to have been amended accordingly. The rules of the said plans shall also be amended accordingly.
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LETTER FROM MINISTER TO TEXACO

April 15, 1983

General Manager,
Texaco Trinidad Inc.,

Dear Sir,

I wish to refer to the discussions between the OWTU and Texaco Trinidad Inc. regarding the Reduction of the retirement age of the employees of your Company from 65 to 60 years.

In the discussions under my chairmanship which concluded this evening at the office of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives in San Fernando, the Company agreed that once the terms and conditions of settlement of the issue under consideration were agreed upon the Company would immediately withdraw the notices of retrenchment which it had served on the Union on March 25th, 1983, in respect of certain employees.

Our discussions also covered the questions of job security and I advised you of the proposed legislation concerning retrenchment, which forms part of the tripartite discussions

which are continuing at the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives.

Now that the terms of settlement have been agreed upon by the Company and the Union, you are requested to indicate in writing that:-

- i) *The Company has withdrawn the notice of retrenchment which was served on the Union on March 25th, 1983.*
- ii) *Those workers who exercise the option given to them by the Company to be away from work during the period of notice will be notified to return to work.*

In our discussions while drawing attention to the international oil scenario, you expressed your Company's desire to ensure maximum job security.

- It is to be noted however that acceptance of the new retirement age of sixty (60) years will result in a substantial reduction in the number of employees now employed by your Company.

In all the circumstances and having regard to proposed legislation to which I have referred, it is the understanding that the Company has undertaken that in the event that it contemplated the retrenchment of any of its workers, the Company will inform the Minister of Labour at least sixty (60) days prior to such intended action. The Company will at the same time furnish the Minister with all relevant data concerning the proposed retrenchment to enable the Minister or the Government to take such action as is deemed necessary.

Yours Faithfully,

Signed - Errol Mahabir,
Hon. Minister of Labour,
Social Security & Co-operatives.

LETTER FROM MINISTRY OF LABOUR

*Riverside Plaza,
Port of Spain.*

April 15, 1983.

*General Manager,
Texaco Trinidad Inc.*

Dear Sir:

I hereby request you to confirm that the understanding reached today under the terms of settlement between Texaco Trinidad Inc. and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union relating to the retirement of employees is that these employees will be retired on a phased basis, in groups according to age and in as equitable a manner as possible, so however that the last person shall not be retired until after the expiration of ninety (90) days.

Yours faithfully,

*Signed – Errol Mahabir,
Hon. Minister of Labour
Social Security and Co-operatives*

LETTER FROM TEXACO TO O.W.T.U.

**Mr. George Weekes,
President General,
O.W.T.U.**

15th, April, 1983.

Dear Sir,

We wish to confirm that the notices dated 25th March, 1983 of our intention to terminate – by reason of retrenchment the services of certain short-service, hourly, weekly and monthly paid employees are hereby formally withdrawn.

Yours Faithfully,

**Signed – C. E. FOSKETT
Manager, Personnel Division**

Cabinet Discussion

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Apr 83 p 16

[Text]

CABINET has recommended that retrenchment legislation should deal only with the question of redundancy and not include reasons of old age and certified ill-health.

At a tripartite meeting held at the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives at Riverside Plaza at the end of last month, Labour Minister Errol Mababir announced Cabinet's decision concerning the scope of and the type of severance benefits formula of the proposed legislation on retrenchment and the pay-

ment of severance benefits.

Since then Mr. Mababir has written to the Employers Consultative Association (ECA) and the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress giving in detail Cabinet's proposals.

During the tripartite talks on retrenchment and severance benefits, the labour movement and the employers held different views.

The question was whether the proposed law should be limited to termination of employment for reason of redundancy or should include old age and certified ill-health.

This was also difference of opinion in separating the concept of redundancy benefit from that of compensation for past service.

Cabinet agreed that the proposed law should deal with compensation for past service in situation where there are no such entitlements by way of a collective agreement or super annuation scheme, in which case the matter should be dealt with under the minimum wage and terms and conditions of employment.

Caroni Action

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

STATE-OWNED Caroni (1975) Limited up to yesterday paid off 247 cultivation workers who opted for severance instead of redeployment following amalgamation of certain gangs.

At the end of this crop, the company intends to retrench about 500 workers employed at the Reform and Woodford Lodge factories. Both factories will be closed down in accordance with recommendations in the Sugar Rationalisation Report, it is understood.

A company spokesman confirmed that the 247 were paid off. Those workers did not accept the company's offer of alternative employment.

An official of All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers' Trade Union said that the alternative employ-

ment offers were definitely not suitable. Many of the skilled workers were not offered proper conditions.

A spokesman for the company said Caroni did its best in an attempt to retain the services of workers.

Workers at the Reform and Woodford Lodge factories would remain on the payroll until the end of this crop. Most of them had already been served with the relevant notices, he added.

Mr. Basedo Panday, President General of the said the union had written the company calling for a meeting to discuss complaints from many workers concerning short pay.

Local Government Layoffs

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

A SENIOR official of the National Union of Government and Federated Workers (NUGFW) said yesterday that large scale retrenchment is taking place among Government daily-paid workers in Sangre Grande and surrounding districts.

Mr. Osmond Providence, Area Representative of NUGFW, said the situation was serious. Because of the fall in employment sales at retail outlets (stores and shops) were dwindling.

At the St. Andrew/St David County Council, where the NUGFW is the recognised union for daily-paid workers, some 450 workers were laid off from January this year, Mr Providence revealed.

He added: "The situation is aggravated by the fact that the size of the labour force was already below the acceptable level. Now it

has been made worse. In some cases three persons are expected to clean up an area of about four square miles.

"What the Council is doing is using casual labour to supplement the work force since sending home the permanent labourers. But this will not work, as in the long run they too will be sent home.

"The Council had a total work force of 1,500 when the establishment figure calls for 773. It is our information that the trimming will stop when the 773 number is reached.

"With this further emasculation of the sanitation crews, the town has been left exposed to a possible epidemic outbreak. Look, outside our office at this moment there is a drain that has not been cleaned for the past two months.

Attack on Government's Role

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

SENATOR Vernon Glean, President of the Trinidad Labour Congress and President-General of the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Trade Union, on Saturday night accused Government of leading retrenchment being carried out by employers.

He spoke in the presence of Minister of State Enterprises Ronald Williams.

Senator Glean was addressing the first long-service awards ceremony of the National Flour Mills at Hilton Hotel. He praised the Flour Mills management before indirectly contrasting the company's policy with the ongoing conduct of the Government in labour affairs.

Senator Glean referred to "the present mass retrenchment cam-

paign undertaken by employers in the country led by the Government" and "the casual and indifferent manner in which government has responded or, may I say, not responded to the numerous requests by the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress for the revision of the Industrial Relations Act with special emphasis on strikes and lockouts."

He was critical of employers because of "the outright refusal by the majority of employers to recognise the valuable contribution made by their employees in negotiating and computing terminal benefits — pensions, severance pay, gratuity" and their vicious and downright disregard for the proverbial milk of human kindness to their employees at the first signs of a decreased in their massive profits."

He accused the news media, too, of "a vicious anti-labour campaign."

The media, he said, had refused to try to understand and analyse the role of the trade union movement in this democratic society upholding the free enterprise system.

Mr. Jack De Lima, the Chairman of the National Flour Mill (NFM), responded a few minutes later to Mr. Glean's remarks by announcing that not only would the National Flour Mills not carry out retrenchment, but it would expand into other industries, provided the Minister of State Enterprises could obtain the necessary backing from Cabinet.

Mr. Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, was praised by Mr. Glean for his service to the Labour Congress and the entire labour movement and hoped that he "would be emulated by his Cabinet colleagues."

Mr. Williams congratulated the management and the staff of the NFM for exemplary industrial relations and praised them, too, for producing one State enterprise that made a profit.

Seventy-one men, of whom not less than 56 had been working with the company for 15 years and the remainder for ten, were honoured at the ceremony.

CSO: 3298/570

PRC DELEGATION TOURS POINT LISAS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Apr 83 p 4

[Text]

WHILE on their official visit to Trinidad and Tobago, the Chinese Import and Trade Delegation visited the Point Lisas Industrial Estate.

The seven-member delegation was led by Mr. Ye Yi, and the group represented the Import and Export Department of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade of Beijing, China. The visitors were accompanied on their tour of Point Lisas by Mr. Neville Blake and Mr. Yaseen Rahaman of the Export Promotions Department of the Industrial Development Corporation, and two representatives of the Chinese Embassy.

In an overview of the activities of the Point Lisas companies, the group was addressed by Mr. Robert Henry, Corporate Relations Co-ordinator of the National Energy Corporation (NEC); Mr. Carlos Hee Hwang, Marketing Manager of Fertilisers of Trinidad and Tobago (Fertria); Mr. F. Wyke, Director of Marketing, and Mr. R. Harriot, Superintendent of Materials Management, both of the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT); and Mr. Malcolm Jones, Head of the Urea and Methanol Divisions of the NEC.

After the overview at the NEC Information Centre, the group was taken on a conducted tour of the industries on the Industrial Estate. The delegation was especially interested in viewing the production in process at ISCOTT since they were looking at locally produced wirerod with an eye to trade. At the iron and steel complex, the visitors were taken to the Quality Control Lab, the Meltshop and the Rodmill. Later in the day, the group visited the facilities at the Point Lisas Industrial Port and the T&TEC Point Lisas Power Plant, and viewed the construction activities in progress at the Urea and Methanol plants.

On behalf of the other members of the mission, Mr. Yi expressed his gratitude for the hospitality shown him and his colleagues and added how impressed they were at the facilities they had been given the opportunity to view.

CSO: 3298/570

CHAMBERS AT PNM RALLY: NOT YET READY TO DISCUSS SOME ISSUES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER George Chambers told party members on Sunday that there were a number of issues being bandied about which he was not yet ready to talk about.

But he would talk about them including integrity legislation, in time he said.

Mr Chambers said he would break his silence at a time and place of his own choosing, whether it be on integrity, whether it be on Tobago, or other matters which he identified.

Mr Chambers was speaking at a PNM rally at the Arima Senior Comprehensive School, organised by the four constituencies around the area.

The rally followed the General Council meeting of the party held at the school.

Mr Chambers told the rally that they should be conscious of the need to maintain the integrity of Parliament so that Parliament was not used for purposes other than in-

tended.

PNM members should continue to do the work which they were doing with discipline and decorum and not allow themselves to be entangled in activities which would demonstrate a lack of discipline and decorum.

The Prime Minister, who is political leader of the PNM, in referring to the local government elections, said that there were close to 200 nominees for screening.

That, he said, was in indication that the PNM was alive and he was happy with the fact that a great portion of those screened were young people.

Also speaking at the rally were Mr Hugh Francis, Minister of Works, Maintenance and Drainage, Mr John Donaldson, Minister of National Security, Mr Overand Padmore, Minister of Education and Mrs Marilyn Gordon, Minister of Sports and Culture.

CSO: 3298/568

INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC COMPANIES SAID TO BENEFIT ONLY A FEW

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by George Harvey]

[Text]

REAL benefits from equity investments in public companies are being enjoyed by a privileged minority in Trinidad and Tobago.

This was stated yesterday by Mr Jerry Hospedales, Executive Director of the Government-sponsored Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation (UTC).

He was addressing a meeting of service organisations and business community representatives in Tobago at Mount Irvine Bay Hotel.

Mr. Hospedales spoke on the role of the UTC (which began functioning in November last year) in the savings and investments process.

He noted that in the period 1973-82, there were 34 public companies that offered 86 million shares valued \$316 million.

Net work of "these investments has more than trebled since then — almost \$1 billion."

He then posed the question. "Who have benefited?"

A breakdown of the 34 companies with quotations on the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange showed:

- Thirteen companies with less than 500 shareholders
- Fourteen with 500-5,000
- Two firms with upwards of 5,000 shareholders to 10,000.
- Four listed with between 10,000-20,000 stockholders.

There was only one company with over 20,000 the National Commercial Bank (NCB).

Mr. Hospedales had no doubt that there was "a considerable number of shareholders common to all companies...as salaried work force is approximately 400,000."

He added: "The question to be addressed is whether the initial intention of allotting shares to nationals of Trinidad and Tobago in response to applications, with a view of widening the shareholding community is being achieved."

"I wish to suggest that the benefits are being enjoyed by a privileged

minority in Trinidad and Tobago.

"This is underscored by the fact that of the 34 companies, only seven have in excess of 5,000 shareholders."

The problem as he saw it was "structural in nature."

The capital market suffered from a structural imbalance in that "conditions and prices dictated by the constraints on supply in the context of high investor demand and this demand is largely determined by access to knowledge and finance."

"The high over-subscription in all new issues (excluding Angostura) is indicative of this."

He thought the solution was to be found in increasing "the availability of acceptable equity shares on the market and educating the public about the benefits to be derived from equity ownership."

The second structural problem was the limited number of participants in the market. He said "the shareholding community is a narrow one and it is critically important that public initiatives are undertaken to widen this community. The role of the UTC is crucial in this respect."

BRIEFS

TOBAGO ISSUE--Mr Anr Robinson, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, said yesterday that the Assembly shared the view of Prime Minister George Chambers that all differences between Central Government and the Assembly could be resolved with goodwill and reasonableness. Mr Robinson said he told this to Prime Minister Chambers when they met on Wednesday in continuing talks. The Assembly Chairman has replied to a letter sent by Mr Chambers relating to the motion by the Assembly for a just union between the two islands. With the reply was a copy of the Tobago House of Assembly Report. Mr Robinson said he expected that the report would be laid in the House of Representatives shortly. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Apr 83 p 1]

AIRPORT SCAM--Five airport security guards have been held for questioning by Customs officers following a report that large sums of money were seized from travellers leaving Piarco. The Customs said that guards in plain-clothes manning checkpoints at the airport over the past two months asked locals leaving the country to hand over all cash in excess of what was stipulated by the Central Bank or face serious charges. It was reported that persons whom had money hidden obliged but the guards did not hand over the money to the authorities. Travellers on returning home made investigations and complained. Thousands of dollars were taken by the security guards, it was stated. Up to last night the five guards were still being questioned. [Text] [Port of Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Apr 83 p 1]

ALLIANCE ON 'INTEGRITY' LEGISLATION--San Fernando--The National Alliance is preparing its comments to be presented to the relevant authorities concerning the setting up of an Integrity Commission. The Alliance has taken the issues to the public and to date has held 17 meetings, airing its views and getting comments. Mr Basdeo Panday, Opposition Leader, said yesterday the Alliance believe, that integrity legislation should contain machinery for investigating the financial position of those who are to be covered by the Act. He said that their view is that the President of the Republic should be included and the President must not and should not have any part in the appointment of members of the commission. The Alliance's view is that the integrity commission should be appointed by a select committee of the House of Representatives and ratified by both Houses, said Mr Panday. On the question of law reform, he said that his party was continuing the call for constitutional reform. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Apr 83 p 7]

BANK-UNION ACCORD--Millions of dollars are expected to be paid out in back-pay to workers of the National Commercial Bank following agreement reached between the bank and the Bank and General Workers Trade Union over all major cost items. The agreement was signed by both parties on Monday and is to be retroactive to October 1, 1982. Certain items are still outstanding and the parties were to meet yesterday afternoon to decide whether negotiations were to continue or the matter be referred to the Industrial Court. Workers are to receive for the first year an increase of \$435, to the lowest grade and \$685 for the highest grade, with \$150 across-the-board in the second year and \$200 in the third. There were also agreements on COLA, dinner and lunch allowance, and the probationary period which is to be five months. Leading the union's team were Vincent Cabrera with Kyril Jack and Haseeb Ali. On the bank's side were industrial consultant, John Horsham, Martin De Gannes, personnel manager, and Michael Warner, general manager. Representing the Ministry of Labour were labour officer Gadraraj Singh and director of labour administration Mr. Leslie Williams. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Apr 83 p 17]

TEACHERS' ACTIONS--Delegates of the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association (TTUTA) have overwhelmingly voted to increase the monthly membership dues from \$10 to \$20 from next month. This took place at the resumed 1982 Conference of Delegates held at Naparima College on Saturday. According to Executive President Anthony Garcia, the conference also approved TTUTA's 1983 budget of \$3.9 million. Thursday, September 29, was also fixed as the date for national elections of officers. Nominations close on June 14. All financial members are eligible to run for office. Mr. Garcia said all eight districts of TTUTA were represented by 71 delegates. Mr. Harold Taylor, who resigned as TTUTA's President last year, was among the 12 observers present, who according to TTUTA's constitution, could not vote. Sixty-eight delegates voted in favour of increasing the fee and three abstained. No one voted against. Mr. Taylor, speaking against the motion which was moved by Vice-President Rev. Fr. Gerard Farfan, said it sought to pay the full-time officers of TTUTA. When TTUTA's constitution was first written it made no provision for such officers. Mr. Taylor said he would be in favour of the increase if it would go towards finding a teachers centre. Another observer speaking against the increase was Mr. Jack Warner. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Apr 83 p 1]

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June 2, 1983